

The Tower

January 2018

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.



January Focus Statement

"Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that, through you, others can see him." - thegospeldaily.org

2018 Budget Approved

The 2018 Budget of \$1,084,197.42 was approved unanimously at the December 10 special meeting of the congregation. Copies are available at the Church Office.

Strategic Plan

This past year, the Council and elected leaders have been using Zion's guiding verse, Vision, and Core Values as the basis for the strategic vision that is now adopted by the Council. The intention of this Strategic Ministry Vision is to live into the Purpose Statement and Core Values. During the three-year period 2018-2020, we will intentionally discern the "next big" projects for Zion. It is exciting to be moving forward with a plan that will intentionally use Zion's Vision as basis for our ministry development. A great amount of effort was given to create the vision and now it will be our guiding document for our mission and ministry.

Each month for the next four months we will share in-depth information about each of the four goal areas (one per month): Education, Worship, Service and Leadership, and Stewardship Development. Below are Zion's guiding verse, Vision and Core Values.

Our Guiding Biblical Verse:

Matthew 25:40—What you have done to one of the least of these, you have done unto me.

Purpose:

Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Make Christ Known

Core Values:

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
Understanding the radical nature of God's grace and living in it
Service to those who are in emotional, spiritual, and physical need

Our Vision:

1. Accepts everyone because everyone belongs
2. Lives in response to and seeks God's presence in change
3. Emboldens all to serve because all are called to service
4. Provides a model of life-long Christian learning
5. Celebrates diverse worship styles and experiences

Preaching Series for January

In the season of Epiphany we will be focusing on what it means to be a Waymaker. God makes so many ways for us each and every day. We begin the year 2018 thinking about how we need to make way for others. We sit in a beautiful building every Sunday because someone else made a way for us. We are being challenged to take hold of the opportunity to be Waymakers for others in faith.

From January 7 – 21, we will be reflecting on how God's voice has transformed our faith. We will be inviting people to give their elevator speech why they are choosing to be a Waymaker here at Zion.

Part II of the Waymakers series (January 28-February 11) will focus on how God's generosity transforms our giving. We will bring our commitment cards to the altar on February 11, Transfiguration Sunday, as we the disciples of Jesus here at Zion grow our faith and become Waymakers for our community.

Lent 2018

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

- 6—8:30AM – Ash & Dash outside
- 12 noon – Service in the Yeager Chapel
- 5PM – Service in the main Sanctuary
- 7PM – Service in the main Sanctuary

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services

- 12 noon in Yeager Chapel
- 7PM in Yeager Chapel

March 25 – Palm Sunday

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

- 12 noon – Service in the main Sanctuary
- 7PM – Service in the main Sanctuary

March 30 – Good Friday

- 12 noon – Service in the main Sanctuary
- 7PM – Service in the main Sanctuary

April 1 – Easter—8, 9 and 11:11 am Services

Worship Core Ministry

Calling All Musicians!

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

- **The Rings of the Lord** (Handbells) needs you! We are in need of ringers!! The Rings of the Lord meets weekly on Thursdays from 5:45-7PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary. Music reading helps.
- **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 on a Friday to prepare and present a program of sacred, fun, and seasonal songs to residents at a local nursing care, assisted living, or hospice care facility. Our next outing will be at Brookside Senior Living on Friday, January 26 at 2PM. Rehearsal in Music Room 1B at 12:30PM. All are welcome to participate! Interested in joining? Contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

Preaching Series for Lent

He's mastered shame and trademarked embarrassment. His lies wound, and his accusations sting. He'll build up your pride just to throw you down. Yes, the devil is strong, but there's one power he can't beat—and it's on your side. Learn how to answer "When the Devil Knocks."

In this series, we're going to prepare people to fight the daily battles they often don't know exist: the attempts by Satan to attack our mind with lies, our hearts with pride, and our souls with accusations. By the end of this series, attenders will have two main takeaways: awareness that we have an enemy looking to take us out every day, and confidence that we have the tools to fight from victory instead of for it.

- Feb. 18: The Deceiver. He's a liar—and he is really, really good at it. What lies has the devil tried to tell you? This week, we'll take a good look at how the devil's deceit tries to bring us down, and how we can stand strong against him.
- Feb. 25: The Destroyer. When the devil can't have our heart, he goes to his backup plan: destruction. He'll try to break you down until you're ready to cry out. But you can build something stronger than any of the devil's attacks.
- March 4: The Accuser. Have you ever been accused of being someone you're not? It's one of the devil's go-to tricks. But you're not who he says you are. You're who God says you are.

Part II of Lent will focus on how to hear the voice of God. When do you need to go back to the basics of remembering how God speaks to you? Where do you tend to look? How do you typically listen?

- March 11: Are we listening? God's First Language is Scripture.
- March 18: Six secondary languages that God speaks through in Scripture.

January Lectionary

- Jan 7** Genesis 1:15, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11
- Jan 14** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
- Jan 21** Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
- Jan 28** Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Zion Concert Series

2017-2018 Season

Upcoming concerts (unless otherwise noted, all are in the Sanctuary with a free-will offering):

Chamber Concert presented by The Community Music School of Ann Arbor
Sunday, January 28th at 4PM

David Troiano, organ recital
Sunday, February 25th at 4PM

Achievers Women's Choir
from the Detroit School for the Arts
Saturday, March 17th at 4PM

Celebrate Music at Zion
Sunday, March 18th at 4PM

Wartburg College Choir
Monday, April 23rd at 7PM

Bring a Friend Sunday—January 21



Bring a friend to worship (8AM First Light Worship, 9AM Sola Worship or 11:11AM Ignite Worship), show them how much Christ is doing in our congregation and then come down to Piper Hall for a wonderful breakfast (9AM—1PM) and help support Zion's youth!

This is a fundraiser for the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Texas. All proceeds go directly to the students who participate in it. Donations of breakfast foods gladly accepted at the church between January 15-18. Thank you! If you would like more information on what to donate, or you would like to help make this event extra special we would love to have you! Please contact Nathan D'Andrea ndandrea@zlc-aa.org or call Zion's office at 734-994-4455



Worship Core Ministry (cont.)

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 2018, 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!



Family Life and Young Discipleship

2018 Winter JAM

The 2018 Winter JAM will be taking place Sunday, February 11, 2018 at the Little Ceasars Arena. This is an amazing show made up of all the biggest names in Christian music, including Skillet, Kari Jobe, kb, Jordan Feliz, building 429, and Newsong! There is no need to buy tickets in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per person, but no one will be turned away. The doors open at 5PM and the main show starts at 6PM. We will be going as a group from Zion, everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come and participate in this amazing night of worship!

First Communion

Attention parents of 4th graders! Classes for First Communion instruction will be Sunday January 21 and 28. We are meeting at 12:30PM in the Gathering lead by our Pastors.

Peggy Hoffman created this amazing Faith Banner to be used first on First Communion Sunday in February and continually at future Confirmations and graduations.



Thank You

Thank you to all the families, students, and parents that participated in all our events in December. You all helped make our Christmas programs extra special this year! Events like this cannot happen without you. It's parents like you that make our job possible and students like yours that keep us coming back! Thank you for your dedication to your child's faith during this extremely busy time of year, and continuing to invest and encourage their building of authentic Faith! Here is to an amazing 2018, with so much more to come! God Bless,
- Nathan & Nina

Thank you to all of our musicians who played, sang, and rang on Christmas Eve. Your music blessed all who heard it. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

- Music Ministry

Brothers and sisters at Zion, I give thanks to God for your many prayers, cards and expressions of Christian support following my recent bypass surgery. You are living examples of Paul's exhortation in Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I am doing well, obeying the cardiologist and Karen, and getting stronger day by day. God bless you, as together we follow the call of Christ to bring good news to our world.
- Pastor Barry

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Mark 1:4-11

Congregation Council

Council Meeting November 14, 2017—Highlights

Financial Report

- **Cash:** Available cash at end of October was \$217,798. Cash in the operations account as of 11/14/17 is approximately \$190,000. We currently have sufficient cash on hand for the foreseeable future.
- **Income:** For the month of October contributions were \$80,454, which was \$7,742 less than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$86,174 in October last year. YTD, contributions are \$10,805 less than budgeted, but more than YTD last year.
- **Expenses:** One ministry was over budget in October. One ministry is over budget YTD. Overall spending was \$3,594 under budget for the month. Spending is \$65,025 under budget YTD.
- **Member Loans:** There is one member loan outstanding, anticipated to be forgiven soon.
- **YTD Attendance and Offering (through Oct 31)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Attendance	13,258	12,880	378
-Including Bibleland	15,243	14,914	329
Offering	\$713,334	\$705,589	\$7,745
Offering per Person	\$53.80	\$54.78	\$(0.98)

Strategic Plan

The final copy of the 2017 Strategic Plan was presented to the Council. Pastor Jim has forwarded this to Mike Ward, along with a copy of the 1994 Strategic Plan and the 2012 Congregation Vision. Mike Ward will present this to the Zion Congregation at a time to be determined.

Policy Manual

Council discussed the fact that we did not have a "Zion Policy Manual." Vickie is currently collecting all the policies currently in use at Zion. Most are current, but a few need to be written or rewritten. Pastor Jim suggested a committee be formed to bring these up to date. Vickie will organize the committee for a January project.

Pastor Jim's Sundays Off

In Pastor Jim's Call Letter he was given one Sunday a calendar quarter off (four Sundays a year). Pastor Jim requested Council approve an extra Sunday off for him in the calendar year 2018 (his son and daughter will both be getting married in 2018). Council approved. Council further approved a motion that Pastor Jim receive five Sundays a calendar year off every year. Dan will prepare an Addendum to Pastor Jim's Call Letter (for his file) to incorporate the results of this motion.

Stewardship for all Seasons (SAS)

Council approved a motion to disburse monies from the General Operations account for this mission, in the following amounts:

- \$ 5,000 AV
- \$33,700 Transportation
- \$ 8,300 Refugees
- \$10,000 Communication Support
- \$30,000 Synod Capital Campaign

Total \$87,000

Zion 2018 Budget

Council discussed the fact that the 2018 budget has a shortfall of

\$48,097.42 (that is, the forecasted expenditures are greater than forecasted income by this amount). We were reminded during the budget discussion that this year we have added two fulltime staff, Pastor Vicky and Nathan D'Andrea. It was concluded that the budget would be presented to congregation with an explanation that cash on hand could be considered as a means to cover the projected shortfall.

Further discussion addressed Mission Core Ministry's budget of \$115,000 with the budget not showing any designated recipients. Mission Core Ministry usually designates these recipients as their needs arise in that year. Some recipients will receive more or none depending on need. After much discussion, Council decided the Budget should show a general breakdown of funds to categories of ministries, such as Global Ministry, Domestic Missions, ELCA Benevolence/Ministry, and Companion Ministry, to be designated with the total sum to be \$115,000.

Council approved a motion to accept the 2018 Budget with amendment to Mission Core Ministry budget as described above, for approval at a special congregational meeting in December.

Reconciling in Christ

Dan introduced the Council to this task force/ministry, currently in service at Zion. The mission is "A program to recognize Lutheran Congregations, synods, organizations, colleges, and seminaries that welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities." The ministry was embraced by the entire Council.

ProEnergy Audit

A proposal for an energy audit was received by Building and Grounds in the amount of \$2750. After discussion, Council decided they did not have adequate information, (e.g., references) to authorize this audit at this time. There was some discussion about the audit providing us with information such as leaky windows, not enough insulation etc. that we already know and wasn't sure this was the correct information we needed. Council also discussed having more than one bid and more details of what we could expect from paid audit. It was decided, with these concerns, to allow Building and Grounds to take the lead on this project.

Security

Pastor Vicky presented Council with a Crisis Training opportunity that she had just completed. ALICE is an organization that provides Houses of Worship with training to deal with a crisis (e.g., active shooter). ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. They offer an e-learning course, training our leadership team with response options used by ALICE. After this e-learning, we would have a trained ALICE leader train us with on-site drills/scenarios. This is a 3-year program, with training once a year. Council approved a motion to retain ALICE to perform e-learning training for up to 50 leaders at the cost of \$400/year and then to follow that training with the on-site training option at a cost to be determined.

Mobile Ministry

Money has been designated from a gift to the congregation (\$45,000) and money has been approved from Stewardship for all Seasons (\$33,700) for a total amount of \$78,700 for the purchase of a larger van. Council approved a motion to purchase a new vehicle that has already been researched and selected at that price.

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2018 at 10:10, during Faith Formation Hour.

From Pastor Jim

The One Word

“So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

In January we often make lists. Lists of things you want to start doing or stop doing - things you want to change about yourself. Lists grow of ways to improve your life and your character. When I open my Bible, I find more lists. Things a follower of Christ should do. Things a follower of Christ should resist doing. Traits a follower of Christ should display.

Each January nearly two-thirds of America's population have made New Year's resolutions. And you've probably found, like I've found, that each day keeps blurring into the next while we try to make some progress with our many good intentions. Yet very little actually changes. That ball keeps dropping in Times Square each New Year's. And we keep dropping the ball on our resolutions to improve. Only 20 percent of resolution makers report achieving any significant long-term change.

Author Mike Ashcraft suggests that we lose the lists and pick a word. “In looking through the lens of a single chosen word, I found a new approach to personal change and spiritual formation — one that is doable, memorable, effective, and sticky. The results have been greater than I expected. One of the coolest things to me is how My One Word not only gives people a doable way to focus on their spiritual formation, but an easy way to talk about it.”

Ashcraft goes on to say, “Around here you'll hear people asking each other, ‘What's your One Word?’ or, ‘How's it going with your One Word?’ You'll hear them answer, ‘My One Word is (___), and so far God's been showing me (___).’ Change is happening. Couples, family, and friends all help hold each other accountable, simply by talking about their words - around the dinner table, at small group meetings, even on Facebook.”

What would your One Word be for 2018?

Our family will experience two weddings in 2018. Our daughter Abigail will be married on June 9 to Derek Walton in Cincinnati, Ohio. And our son, Joshua will be married to Samantha Cassady on August 4 in Seattle, Washington. The One Word that will be the focus for 2018 for me will be JOY. Psalm 68:3 says, *“But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.”*

My hope is that this theme verse will echo all year long as we celebrate the weddings of our kids, but also as we face the daily ups and downs of this changing life. Kay Warren defines joy as: “The settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately that everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.” Growing our family brings great Joy. It is my prayer that in 2018 The One Word- JOY- will give me the determined choice to praise God in all things.

What will your One Word be? Don't let the year choose The One Word. You choose your word and let it influence your year. May 2018 find you wrapped in God's love and emboldened by God's never-ending peace, mercy, hope and joy.

Pastor Vicky's Corner

A new beginning. A clean slate. A fresh start. Call it what you will. When the calendar flips to January 1st, we all inhale the fresh smell of a new year and wonder what the next 365 days will bring. And we hope.

Hope is a funny word. The actual definition of it is “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen; a feeling of trust.” As we prepare for the big events in our lives, we wait and hope for all things to go as planned. Throughout Advent we waited in hopeful anticipation of the coming of the Christ child. Over Christmas we had hope that the holiday would be filled with joy. And now in the New Year, we find ourselves hoping again.

When I became an author, I would sign books with the words “Have Hope.” The eternal optimist in me believed those two little words were a message of encouragement for anyone who was in the middle of a life battle. But over the years, I've come to understand that with hope comes burden. The challenge with having hope is that it requires one to wait.

I am captivated by the concept of hoping because each day I have a choice of which side of hope I will live on. Hope is a double-edged sword. It is a battle between waiting for the promise of what lies ahead and falling into despair over the fact that it is not here yet. So, I've decided in 2018, I will focus on trusting in the faithful promises of Jesus. I am going to work on my waiting and allow things to unfold in God's timing, not my own. (And that's tough for a “do-er.” ☺) Won't you join me?

Let's have hope together!

Adult Discipleship

Adult Education Classes for January

January 7, 14, 28, and February 11, 18, 25: Martin Luther King—The Struggle for Civil Rights in America.

The 1960s were a pivotal time in the struggle for civil rights in America, and this six week class will explore this struggle from several angles. In the first two sessions, Dale Eckart will lead a discussion of several sermons from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. These sermons energized and motivated King's followers, but they were also firmly rooted in the Gospels and included many themes from Martin Luther's theology of the cross. On January 28, we will view the powerful documentary, "The Freedom Riders," which covers the courageous actions of black and white civil rights advocates to push for civil rights by boarding buses in Washington D.C in May 1961, and riding them into the deep south, where they aimed to challenge segregation laws. 10:10-11AM in Piper Hall.

January 7: Class on making New Year's resolutions

Happy New Year! Have you ever made a New Year's resolution? During this time of year, many people resolve to do something significant or different for many reasons, such as bettering themselves or accomplishing something new. The start of a New Year seems to give us a blank slate to initiate these efforts. How might our faith be impacted by resolutions for the New Year? Kerry & Chris Shook wrote the book, *One Month to Live, Thirty Days to No-Regrets Life*. They outline four principles: Live Passionately, as if each day were your last; Love Completely, showing others that love transcends and transforms; Learn Humbly, growing through problems and pain; and Leave Boldly, creating a legacy that will impact others. Using these four principles can help make each day matter in the New Year. What do you need to stop or start doing? What needs to change in the core areas of your life? Come and explore these questions as we enter into the year 2018. Led by: Pr. Jim in Classroom A.

January 14: Study on the Psalms

The Book of Psalms represents a rich tapestry of prayer and praise. It covers a range of human emotions and reaches out to God from every imaginable experience. Come learn how this book speaks to your soul. Led by: Pr. Vicky in Classroom A.

Thursday Midweek Bible Study

In the Beginning - Creation, Fall and Flood - Genesis Chapters 1-11

The opening chapters of the Bible lay the foundation for the entirety of scripture. If you do not understand the opening chapters of the Bible - you will not understand the Bible!

Within the opening chapters of Genesis we are introduced to God and our relationship with Him. We are told what it means to be human, the reality of sin and its consequences, God's ongoing love and care for his creation—in particular, humankind, plus much more that we will cover.

Classes begin Thursday, February 8, 2018, and run through March 22, 2018 (the week before Holy Week). We meet in the upstairs Sunday School room from 1:30-3PM, with a break for some goodies. We would love to have you join with us, and please invite your friends and neighbors to join with you - we love to see more and more people "in the Word!" Classes are led by Pastor Walt Schmidt.

Mission Core Ministry

God and Grub

Our Wednesday chapel and lunch for our Zion family and community continues to be a wonderful outreach ministry. If you are not able to attend on Wednesdays at noon, how about blessing the crowd with a meal instead? We typically serve 25 people each week. You can sign up at the Welcome Center or let Pastor Vicky know of your interest at vlovell@zlc-aa.org.

Rotating Homeless Overflow Shelter

There are approximately 1300-1500 men and women who experience homelessness in Washtenaw County. For the past 25+ years, Zion has opened its doors and welcomed some of these men at our church during the Rotating Homeless Overflow Shelter.

Our second week of hosting is January 1-8. We will need a tremendous amount of volunteers to make this happen, so please check out the list of volunteer opportunities below and pray how you can help. You can sign up on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Desk.

- Evening Meal Preparers and Servers - groups welcomed!
- Overnight Hosts - two per night
- PM Drivers
- AM Drivers
- Blessing Bag Donations (hygiene kit, shaving supplies, warm socks, t-shirts, journals, hand-warmers, snacks)
- AM Snack Donations (granola bars and fruit juices)
- Clothing Donations

Thank you in advance for all your support!

Mission Core Ministry (cont.)

Haiti Mission Trip Reflections

[Ed. note: following are impressions / reflections of two Zion members from their recent Haiti mission trip.]



Haiti overwhelms me! The time always goes by so quickly; I become sad when I realize all the things I wanted to do, but didn't have the chance to. How much I will miss all those who tugged so hard at my heart-strings. Then, the wind blows and I feel the Holy Spirit and I rejoice with a glad heart for the opportunity to have been there, and over all of the things I did with my teammates, the countless children, the many teachers, and especially with our host family. It's what they don't have (running water, electricity, sanitation controls, etc.) that we first see. It's the joy, happiness, sweltering heat, fun, loving and caring spirits of the people (young, old and in between) there that we feel – intensely. It's the roosters crowing, dogs barking, turkeys gobbling, kids laughing, music being played and sung, that we hear – and it resonates to our souls. It's the mouth-watering aroma from the grill, the garbage being burned, strolling by the fowl-coop, the sweat and perspiration of the young men working, a walk by the dog kennel, an exceptionally pleasant waft from the cooking school that tickles our sense of smell. When the time comes to leave, in our own ways, we each do an assessment, where we each come to the conclusion, the Haitian people have so much more in so many ways than we ever will. Is it any wonder I can't wait to go back again? - Terri McCoy

I look forward to my annual pilgrimage to Living Hope Ministries each year. It is my spiritual retreat. It is my servant leadership training. It is a family reunion. It is my adventure travel fix. It is a most wonderful way to unplug and spend a mere week each year. I look forward to seeing my extended family, good friends, and familiar faces. This year's team was the smallest (only 4), but all of us had been to Haiti at least twice before. It made my time as team leader more relaxing and enjoyable as Terri, Fritz and Tamara all jumped in and did their own thing without any guidance. It was great fun to watch and be a part of such a capable and enjoyable group. It was great to see the rapid growth of both the elementary school and trade school. Wonderful to see the immediate impact donations have at Living Hope. Examples include: the churches which funded the new 2nd floor classrooms and sewing machines; the individuals who donated computers, keyboards, sponsorship care packages, fabric and sewing supplies, and so much more. I was able to see and connect with some of the teachers who were once students at Living Hope. Mary Jane and Andris are building a legacy of energized and educated young adults, who are making a difference on campus, in their families, and in their communities. God is alive and well in the lives of Living Hope. - Mark Gunderson

Uganda Information Meeting

This summer, Pastor Vicky will be leading a 10-day mission trip to Uganda. If you are interested in learning more about what such a trip would look like, join her in the Youth Room on January 16th at 6PM. This trip is open to anyone 18 years and older. If you are unable to attend but would like more information, you can e-mail her at vlovell@zlc-aa.org.

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."*

⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.* ⁴⁵ *Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

⁴⁶ *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.*

"Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."*

⁴⁸ *"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."*

⁵⁰ *Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."* ⁵¹ *He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."*

- John 1:43-51

Welcome Core Ministry

Website Redesign for 2018

Zion's website will be going through a redesign in 2018. We are working with Lori Bugler who is a communications specialist for churches and has her own website design company. Here are the questions she is asking our worshipping community:

1. Who are your primary audiences for the website?
2. What is the primary purpose for your website (welcoming for visitors, information, education, faith formation, etc.)?
3. What are the non-negotiables for the website, things we absolutely should include?
4. Who will be the primary contact(s) for questions and resources for the website?
5. What navigation menu items do you find particularly helpful when looking at other church websites?
6. What are 3-4 church websites you really like, and what do you like about them? Following are four very different congregations' websites for consideration:

www.sojoy.org
www.lordoflife.org
www.lordoflifedbq.com
www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines

Online Directory

If you haven't yet had a chance to have your photo taken and want to be included in the online photo directory, you can simply send the following information to Joanne Dence (joannedence74@gmail.com): a recent photo (JPG format), name(s), children's names (if applicable), address, phone number, email address (required for mobile access).

Please note you can include all or just some of the contact information but 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. Whatever information you send will be included in the directory. 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 members can be included in the directory. 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.

Name Tags

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

Welcome Core Ministry invites you to request a name tag if you do not already have one. It is nice to be able to greet someone by name and to identify potential visitors when they are not wearing one. How do you get one? Simply fill out the green form that can be found on the magnetic board in the Welcome Center and give it to the volunteer at the visitor's desk. By the following Sunday, you can find your name tag alphabetically organized on the magnetic board outside the sanctuary. Just remember to put your name tag back before leaving each Sunday. Thank you and we look forward to greeting you by name!

Member Caring Ministry

Memorial Garden Update

Many persons start the new year with multiple resolutions to get more organized so they can function more efficiently. I am one of those persons, and I suspect some of you are also in the same category. When the Parish Nurses and the Memorial Garden committee presented the series on "Good Aging" last spring, we also encouraged you to make some end-of-life plans.

So far I have purchased a notebook with dividers, and have thought about what my family will need to know when I am suddenly gone from their midst. Some things are done, including my will and establishing a trust. But one really important thing is planning my funeral and burial, and I have done part of that. Now I grant you that this may not be on the top of your list, but your survivors will be very grateful that you have let them know exactly what you want! Zion and the Good Shepherd Memorial Garden are available to help you make those plans!

At this writing, the Garden addition is mostly finished except for some sealants and lights, and of course the plantings will be done in the spring. But we are ready to accept your purchase of a columbarium niche, either single or companion, or ground burial with a Memorial Brick. The rack outside the office contains pamphlets about the Garden, booklets for planning your funeral, and forms for burial here at Zion. Please note that there are two green pages for ground burial, and two tan pages for columbarium burial. If you are interested in burial in our Garden and have had time to read through these materials, I am happy to meet with you at Zion to complete the process. I can be reached by email at gladysknoll@yahoo.com, or by phone: (734) 780-7507. I look forward to hearing from you!

- Gladys Knoll

Member Caring Ministry (cont.)

Encourager Events

Beginning this month, there will be monthly activities at Zion specifically to create simple craft gifts. These gifts are to be given as encouragement for someone you know that is carrying burdens or needs courage.

The first event (weather permitting) is on January 22, 4:30-5:30PM, when we will be quickly making Mason Jar DIY Salads. We will meet in the Welcome Center—men, women and youth are all welcome. There is \$7 fee for supplies for each jar. Please sign up Sundays on the sign up sheet located at the Welcome desk before Jan. 14th, and indicate if you are bringing your own sanitized quart sized jars with lids or any special ingredients. You may only have time and supplies to complete two jars. They can be passed immediately as a healthy portable meal for someone. Brighten someone's day. Please email babdebner@gmail.com if you are coming.

The February Encourager Event will be a Valentine Mason Jar DIY Gift. March's Mason Jar event is focusing on creating a special luminaries, and April will bring an exciting Cookie Jar Sunday. Watch for more details.

Zion Women Enjoying Fellowship, Food and New Friends



We are so blessed to have so many encouraging women faithful to serving Christ at Zion. We give thanks that we can gather and be reminded that relationships matter. We are loved! We will continue to encourage others to love. See Barbara Debner if you have questions or wish to help lead a women ministry event at Zion. Remember to join us on January 16th (weather permitting) at 7:15PM. During this hour-long meeting we begin planning a 2019 getaway retreat. Bring your ideas and calendar.

Love Lives Here Bible Study

We set our next women's bible study dates for the Love Lives Here group meeting in 2018 at Barbara Debner's home in Ypsilanti. We meet at 6:30 (weather permitting) on January 21st and then on February 11th. Bring your bible. Enjoy fellowship and a light snack. This winter we will "Choose Joy."

Washtenaw Men's Retreat 2018

The topic for the 2018 Washtenaw Men's Retreat will be *Crossing Reformation Spirituality with a Wobbly Church*. Pastor Dennis Bux from Christ Lutheran Church in Monroe, Michigan will be our presenter. The dates are Friday, February 9 - Sunday, February 11. We encourage men of other congregations to join us - please feel free to spread the word!

The weekend schedule will be as follows - details on session topics will be announced at a later date:

- Check-in, introductions, and Session 1 - Friday evening, 7:30 - 9:30 (you can check into your room earlier).
- Socializing, informal discussion, or early to bed - Friday evening after 9:30.
- Breakfast - Saturday morning, exact time TBA.
- Session 2, part 1 - Saturday morning 9:00 - 10:00.
- Session 2, part 2 - Saturday morning 10:15 - 11:15.
- Lunch - exact time TBA
- Session 3 - Saturday afternoon 1:30 - 2:30. The rest of Saturday afternoon is free for bookstore browsing, walking the labyrinth, prayer, naps, meditation, general relaxation.
- Dinner - exact time TBA
- Session 4 - Saturday evening 7:00 - 9:00.
- Socializing, etc. - Saturday evening after 9:00.
- Breakfast - Sunday morning, exact time TBA
- Sunday morning 9:00: Short worship service and head home.

Don't miss browsing the wonderful Weber Center Bookshop!

The retreat 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 (checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church); 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.

Other News

LLM Update – Dale Eckart

Sorry to miss providing an update in the last few issues of the Tower. I completed two more classes in the fall of 2017, and they spoke to both my head and my heart in ministry.

The first class of the fall was Systematic Theology, which spoke to my head. It sounds a bit intimidating, but Pastor Dennis Bux (recently retired) made it very accessible and relevant. He encouraged us to follow a certain German Augustinian monk from the 1500's (hint, hint) and become theologians of the cross. We (like Luther) recognized the Gospel as Good News for sinful people, and talked about salvation, the sacraments, and indeed Jesus Christ himself in that way. How does salvation come about? What Good News do people need to hear? How can we bring that Good News in the midst of a suffering world? That last point was very relevant to us; one of our classmates was not present in this course, since she was caring for her husband who was dying of cancer. Lisa Gross (one of my other classmates) and I visited the funeral home after he had died. Theologians of the cross teach that God loves us, wants to be in a relationship with us. God wants this so much that God does not stay up in the clouds somewhere but came down to earth, walked among us, and died on the cross. God experiences our pain, and still loves us. Good News indeed!

The second class of the fall/winter was Pastoral Care/Visitation, which spoke to my heart. Pastor Jill Heather has worked as a chaplain in both hospital and hospice settings. She led us in discussions about how people deal with illness, death and dying. While we may have an opportunity to share a word of Gospel in those settings, she also emphasized our gifts of presence and accompaniment – to be there for those who need comfort, to read the room for cues on what they might need, and to be a physical demonstration of love and presence. Pastor Jill talked about initiatives where “no one dies alone,” and several class members shared stories of times that they had been present for others in times of illness and death. The “salvation part” belongs to our God; the gifts of love that we share from God are shared in community.

More classes are scheduled in the winter/spring of 2018. As I enter the second year of classes, I am also beginning to plan for the internship portion of the LLM training. I will meet with members of the LLM Advisory Committee in January 2018, and I have reached out to Pastor Kathy at Zion, Chelsea, to explore ideas for serving my internship in her congregation close to my home. Thank you all for your prayers and support as I journey through this program, and find my way to helping serve our Southeast Michigan Synod and Christ's larger church in the world.

Faces of Faith VII

One of the annual programs that the IRT offers the community is a “face to face” experience with people from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds. This year we have

six presenters ready to talk about the joys and misconceptions that come with their tradition or beliefs. Come listen to and engage with a Hindu, an Interfaith minister, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Jew and a Catholic on what it is that both brings them joy from their faith traditions and sadness from other people's reactive biases. \$5 suggested donation.

Date: Sunday, January 14, 2018

Time: 4-6PM

Place: Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor



Interfaith Round Table
of Washtenaw County

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY CALENDAR

Monday, January 1, 2018 *New Year's Day*
Office Closed

6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall

Tuesday, January 2

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM B&G Meeting/Creation Station
7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Church Office
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall

Wednesday, January 3

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:45 PM God & Grub Lunch/Youth Room
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM AI-A-Teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 4

12:30 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
5:45 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 5

12:30 PM Friday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall

Saturday, January 6

9:00 AM Weinert Gathering/The Gathering
6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall

Sunday, January 7

7:45 AM Coffee Time/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
10:10 AM Families with youth children/Alpha Room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM JAM/Youth Room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
10:10A M Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
12:30 PM Confirmation Class/Youth room
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth room
6:00 PM Rotating Shelter/Piper Hall

Monday, January 8

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
12:30 PM Monday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
6:30 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Kesler Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, January 9

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
9:30 AM Good Thyme Garden Club/The Gathering
2:00 PM IDAP Meeting/Omega Room
6:30 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:45 PM God & Grub Lunch/Youth room
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
7:00 PM Endowment Board Meeting/Youth Room
7:30 PM AI-a-teen meeting/Omega Room

7:30 PM AI-Anon meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting/ Piper Hall

Thursday, January 11

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
5:45 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Sanctuary

Friday, January 12

Youth leave for Spring Hill

Saturday, January 13

2:00 PM Mary Olson Memorial Service/Sanctuary
2:30 PM Olson family luncheon/Piper Hall

Sunday, January 14

7:45 AM Coffee Time/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
10:10 AM JAM/Youth room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM Families with young children/Alpha room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
10:10A M Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
3:00 PM Faces of Faith/Piper Hall & kitchen
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, January 15

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
6:30 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, January 16

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:15 PM Women's retreat planning/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, January 17

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:45 PM God & Grub Lunch/Youth room
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM AI-a-teen meeting/Omega room
7:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 18

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
11:00 AM International Neighbors/Piper Hall & Kitchen
1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
3:00 PM Faces of Faith Youth Event/The Gathering
5:45 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

Sunday, January 21—Bring a Friend Sunday

7:45 AM Coffee Time/Welcome center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
8:30 AM Youth Sponsored Breakfast/Piper Hall
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
10:10 AM Families with young children/Alpha room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
10:10A M Adult Discipleship/Classroom A

11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
12:30 PM 4th grade 1st communion/The Gathering
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, January 22

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
4:30 PM Mason Jar DIY Encourager/Welcome Center
7:00 PM Kesler Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, January 23

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
10:00 AM Parish Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry/Church Office

Wednesday, January 24

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:45 PM God & Grub lunch/Youth Room
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM AI-a-teen meeting/Omega room
7:30 PM AI-anon meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 25

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
5:45 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 26

12:30 PM Zion Singers Rehearsal/Music Rm. #1
3:00 PM Scrapbooking/The Gathering

Saturday, January 27

8:00 AM Scrapbooking/The Gathering

Sunday, January 28

7:45 AM Coffee Time/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
10:10 AM JAM/Youth room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM Families with young children/Alpha room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
10:10A M Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
12:30 PM 1st Communion/The Gathering
4:00 PM Community Music School Concert/Sanctuary
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, January 29

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
5:00 PM Ruth's Small Group Cooking/Main Kitchen

Tuesday, January 30

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's Office
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 31

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:45 PM God & Grub lunch/Youth room
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM AI-a-teen meeting/Omega room
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
7:30 PM AI-anon meeting/The Gathering

The Tower

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December Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: *Ava Michelle Snyder, parents Brian & Sara Snyder*
WEDDINGS:
FUNERALS: *Jeannette Brooks; David Fox; Dylan Martin; Doris McCalla*
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)
Carrie Morton (cmorton@zlc-aa.org)
Bob Thompson (rcthompson@zlc-aa.org)
Sharon VanRiper (svanriper@zlc-aa.org)
Mark Warwashana (mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org)
Sarah Wentzloff (swentzloff@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, Jill Goldstein

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	Vicky Lovell
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Youth Discipleship Leader / Family Life Ministry Coordinator	Nathan D'Andrea
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
VBS Coordinator	Jessica Rudy
Director of Choirs & Special Music	Natalie Downs
Organist	Elgin Clingaman
Organist Emerita	Carol Muehlig
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 Givers	Anna Dupke, Anna Peters, Lizzy Peters
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.