

The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

November 2014

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



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



From Pastor Mike

Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. Thanksgiving has its historical roots in religious and cultural traditions. Why not, right? After all, as Christians we are called "...to give thanks in all circumstances..." (1Thes 5:18). Why? Because as Paul tells us "it is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

To give thanks, however, is to give more than just lip service to a God who already knows our hearts. To give thanks is to love the neighbor as the self, to give of ourselves, our time, talents, and treasures so as to make a difference in people's lives that are less fortunate, who choose to pay the electric bill and go without medications, who send children to school without proper nutrition. The list goes on and you know that already. Your generosity over the years has been tremendous.

This year at Zion, November 16th will be a very deliberate and busy day. Elected Leaders of all the core ministries have been charged to organize a **Ministry Fair** (for lack of a more clever title). That fair is to demonstrate to all of Zion the cornucopia of ministry opportunities that go on within our walls that need the human touch. Without the human resources supporting the everyday ministries, those things that "just seem to happen" will no longer.

On that same day, Financial Stewardship will kick-off our **Annual Financial Stewardship Drive** so that Zion can continue to support the many ministries that you all have supported for years. Check out our web-site under "Mission" in the Ministry tab on the home page.

As you give thanks this year, remember to give thanks for the opportunity to grow in faithful stewardship, to become a better steward of God's love. I give thanks for all of you and hope for another blessed harvest to give thanks for next year!

Calendar Notes

Ministry Fair—Come One, Come All!

Don't confuse this with a "mission fair" where we get introduced to all our mission partners locally and globally - oh no! This fair is all about you and your ability to get involved. This fair will introduce you to the many and varied ways Zion needs your participation to keep ministry happening in this place. Following all three worship services you will have the opportunity to be part of the Consecration Brunch in Piper Hall, but in order to get there you will have to stroll through the "Fair." Stop at all the tables, meet the elected leaders of our core ministries, learn of the need for human resources, and then practice your faithful stewardship by lending a helping hand in one ministry or more.

The Ministry Fair - November 16th after each worship experience! Make a difference in your faith journey by making a difference in one of Zion's ministries.

Consecration Sunday

In addition to the Ministry Fair, we will also be celebrating Consecration Sunday on November 16. This will be your opportunity to complete an Estimate of Giving card to make your financial commitment to Zion's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries—those that support our members, the local community and the world at large.

Our stewardship is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating our people as members of a social club who should pay dues, we want to treat them as followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Please prayerfully consider all the ways you can support Zion's ministries, and plan to participate in all the activities on November 16.

Financial Stewardship News

Serving Others

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
- 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

How are you performing at serving others through your giving to Zion and its many missions and ministries? Think—and pray—about the ways you can support Zion's mission and ministries as we celebrate Consecration Sunday on November 16.

E-Giving

Your annual pledge helps us forecast, with confidence, the level of financial support our congregation will receive in the year ahead. It is through the pledges and contributions of our members that we are able to carry on our work here at Zion Lutheran Church.

As you consider your pledge, we remind you that we offer Electronic Giving as a way to automate your offerings. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for the church. Collection plate offerings can fluctuate significantly from week to week but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

Please visit the church website at <http://zlc-aa.org/e-giving>, where you can set up both recurring and one-time contributions. Or, if you wish, you may complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

Worship Core Ministry

November Lectionary

- Nov 2** Revelation 7:9-17, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12
- Nov 9** Amos 5:18-24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov 16** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 23** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov 30** Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Christmas Music Under Construction

Like to sing and make music, but don't have the time in your schedule to commit to weekly rehearsals? You are invited to join our music-making for Christmas! If you would like to sing with the choir or play handbells on Christmas Eve, now is the time! Join us for a few weeks as we prepare to sing and ring the song of the angels - "*Glory to God in the highest, for unto us is born a child!*" Contact Rob Meyer for more information (rmeyer@zlc-aa.org).

Music at Zion

Please join us as we make a *joyful noise* and proclaim the Gospel in song! For more information contact Rob Meyer at rmeyer@zlc-aa.org. Zion Music Ensemble rehearsal days and times:

- *Liberty Street/Praise Band*, Weekends, Sanctuary or Praise Band Room
- *Zion Handbells*, Thursday 6PM, Sanctuary
- *Chancel Choir*, Thursday 7:30PM, Sanctuary
- *Zion Singers*, Fourth Friday 12:15PM, Music Room 1



Zion Singers

The Zion Singers is a group of singers from inside and outside the membership of Zion who have daytime availability. This group meets once a month on Friday (usually the 4th Friday) from September - May in Music Room 1 on Level B1. They rehearse for an hour and then go to a pre-arranged assisted living, nursing care or hospice facility to present a brief program for an audience of the residents. For more information contact Rob Meyer (rmeyer@zlc-aa.org). Our November Zion Singers date is November 21 at Hillside Terrace.

Teaching Inserts

A new teaching insert will be available in the pew racks for Christ the King Sunday, November 23. These inserts are for your personal devotional time and for the greater education of congregation as a whole. Information about the season's theme, color, symbolism and one aspect of our worship service or its order are highlighted in each insert. Check it out!

To learn more about Worship ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- 1 John 3: 1-3

Congregational Council

September 16, 2014—Highlights

Financial Report

Available cash at the end of August was \$137,827. Cash in the operations account as of 09/12/14 is approximately \$126,000. In July, we received a transfer of \$95,000 for Operations and an additional \$63,000 for the Capital Building Reserve account (Building & Grounds) from the Endowment Fund. We should now have sufficient cash on hand to last well into next year.

- **Income:** For the month of August, donations were \$65,658, which was \$17,876 more than what was projected in the budget. Year to date, contributions are \$6,742 less than budgeted, and approximately \$13K more compared to last year at this time.
- **Expenses:** Overall, we were \$7,975 under budget for August and \$74,652 under budget for the year.
- **Building fund:** Contributions in August were \$1,291.54 by 19 givers. The fund balance was \$1,291.54 at the end of August. The minimum principal payment for September was \$2,240.55. At the time of the meeting, David had cut the check to make the principal payment for the full amount of \$1,291.54 received in August plus the minimal principal payment, and was ready to mail it. We owe Thrivent \$131,427.52 as of the end of August.
- **Memorial Fund:** We received a donation of \$10,000 to the General Memorial Fund in September, in honor of Helen Griffith. The balance of the fund as of 9/12/14 is \$30,151.
- **Attendance:** Year to date, our attendance including Bibleland is 12,231. Offerings year to date are \$548K compared to \$535K in 2013.

Contemporary Service Feasibility Study

Dale Eckart from Worship Core Ministry led this discussion and gave a presentation. A feasibility group established to explore moving to Piper Hall long term vs modifying the sanctuary determined that Piper Hall eventually would be limiting to growth. Worship Core Ministry is recommending a phased approach: Phase 1, video upgrades; Phase 2, audio upgrades; phase 3, lighting upgrades. Worship Core Ministry is working closely with IT Committee to improve our worship experiences. Worship Core Ministry is looking for council's approval of the purchases under Phase 1, which could be up to \$49,000 (there is \$27,500 set aside for these improvements from the Haraar bequest).

Discussion followed, and some of the questions that were raised were:

- **Q:** The presentation notes that Piper Hall's "intimate setting, and closeness to the band was received well." How does the phased approach

address this point?

- **A:** We have two rows of chairs in the front that can be rearranged currently. Adding more rows like this is reserved for a later phase, because it's important but not urgent.
- **Q:** How much could the overall project cost?
- **A:** It could end up being more than \$100K, but we believe it's important and deserves the funds.
- **Q:** Haraar money was used to purchase AV equipment, is that already outdated?
- **A:** Our video setup is from 2007-2008. We bought microphones with Haraar money, but the sound board wasn't replaced.
- **Comment:** Phase 1 doesn't necessarily put contemporary worship first, as noted in the presentation.
- **A:** "Fixing what's broken" comes first, but the aspect that will push contemporary worship is the change to the setting.
- **Q:** Timeline?
- **A:** Quotes for Phase 1 are good for 30 days. We don't have a timeline for Phases 2 or 3.

Council gave direction to Worship Core Ministry to pursue a final bid for the equipment in Phase 1, make the report to Council for approval, pursue the additional phases, and engage a design team to review the plan in total.

Call Committee Update:

Diane reported that the Call Committee has received 83 candidate review profiles that matched our site profile. Call committee has held 4 Skype interviews, 2 of which are proceeding to additional interviews. The committee continues to review roster leader profiles, and believes the process could take about a year. Sometimes discussions within the committee are intense, but the committee keeps reaching consensus. Eric Brigger, our youth representative, is now at school, but still gives input via Skype and whenever he's back in town. Diane has been enjoying this process, and Nick agreed that everyone on the committee feels this way.

Staff Evaluation Process

Pastor Mike reported that 4 staff members: Mike, Christine, Kelly, and Rob, who are the 4 staff in primary leadership roles, are to come up with three people each to provide 360 reviews. Plans will be finalized by the end of this week. These reviews are not for performance, but to assess leadership skills. Given that Christine is retiring in April, does it make sense for her to have this evaluation? Mike responded that this is what personnel committee directed.

Mission Core Ministry

Weekend Visit with Pastor Mitri Raheb

To all members of Zion, we give you thanks for your graciousness and hospitality to Pastor Raheb and all who were our guests over the weekend of September 19 to 21. By all reports, the weekend was successful --

1. Council members were invited to a **Friday night dinner** (Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce) and most were able to attend. Interaction seemed easy and pleasant. A brief discussion after dinner was active and positive, with good questions. Several Council members were obviously enthusiastic.
2. The **Saturday seminar** had 112 registrants. We heard nothing negative. Most people were enthusiastic about talks and workshops. These included discussions on youth mission experiences; combating hunger and poverty; immigration and refugee needs; accompaniment programs to Palestine; and the Bright Stars model of accompaniment. In morning sessions, Pastors Raheb and Abdulmasih spoke to the need to hold on to hope when faced with adverse conditions: travel restrictions, limited access to water and jobs, to those things we here take for granted. Pastors Jack Eggleston and Fred Harms, with Rafat Ita of LSSM, considered cultural challenges and spoke passionately to the competing loyalties faced by Christians trying to be relevant in today's world. Registrants included non-Lutherans from Ann Arbor and Midland; four young men who are in charge of some of the planning for the youth gathering to be held in Detroit in 2015, three from WI and one from FL; and Lutherans from southeast Michigan and Ohio, as well as members of Zion.
3. Three **Sunday services** with sermons by Pr. Mitri, brunch, and stories told by various people who have been to the Holy Land (Larry, Elida, Bill, Alison, Tim, Bryan and Layale) were all received very well. 244 people, including a number of visitors, were in attendance. Food was great and the stories even better; people actually listened.
4. A **Sunday evening potluck** was attended by about 60 people and ended with another helpful discussion.
5. Zion members built a **wall** meant to simulate the Israeli barrier wall which is slowly strangling much of Palestine and enclosing Bethlehem. It was not as tall as the real wall (about 25 feet), and it had a feature

that was meant to suggest what is needed between Israelis and Palestinians -- a bridge. This was a reminder to us that the ELCA work with Palestine is done under the heading of "Bridges Not Walls."

Were our goals met? Yes, if by "goals," we hoped for healthy turnout at events and convivial responses from the Zion community. Not necessarily, if by "goals," we had hoped for a clear-cut sense of where the future will take us. That has been the case from the very first meeting called to form the Christian Companion Team; this is something to be worked out one step at a time. There is no defined program we as a congregation can download and follow precisely. Goals for future efforts can be developed by the CCT, but commitment will need to come from the church Council and the congregation. Our goals are not so different from those we've held for the past two years:

- Support youth visitation from Bethlehem to southeast Michigan, and the 2015 Youth Gathering.
- Support youth visits from Zion to Bethlehem on a southeast Michigan-sponsored trip at some future time.
- Explore ways for us to get to know the people of Christmas Lutheran and for them to get to know us.
- Think about bringing the parish nurse (the only parish nurse in Palestine) from Bethlehem to Ann Arbor, and to facilitate a meeting with her with nurses in our area.
- Consider planning another Zion trip to the Holy Land.
- Discuss funding sources with Council.

Big thanks go to many people for their help throughout this process. We especially want to acknowledge Pat, Diane and Ruth for organizing and pulling off special food for the weekend, plus writing *Tower* articles and arranging for the visits of Fred Harms; Felicia and John for the Saturday seminar, which meant a brochure, speakers, timetable, set-up, food, contact with guests, endless detail; Pastor Mike for being supreme cheerleader and wall builder, along with Kent, Nial, Dale and Pat; Chris, Diane, Kelly and David for so many things; Linda, Peter, Harry, and Lois for seeing where help was needed and then being there; Bob and Tyler for all of the tech work; Mike for patience with *Tower* pieces; high schoolers for help on Sunday morning; and Chris and Pat for successfully moving us around. - *Sonja Page for the Zion Christian Companion Team*

Big SERRV Sale

Sat Nov 22 & Sun Nov 23 9AM—12:30PM each day Stellhorn Lounge

There has been a cool nip in the air lately, leaves are turning to brilliant shades of orange, yellows and reds, reminding us that Fall has arrived. A part of Fall at Zion is the big SERRV sale held in Stellhorn Lounge in November. We have received more handcrafted items for this sale and hope you will come to do some shopping for friends, family or yourself. Purchasing items through SERRV provides the artisans fair wages and a better life for their families.

Mission Core Ministry (cont.)

Annual Giving Fair - A Time for Sharing

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' -Matthew 25:37-40

We are entering the season of Christmas - a time of giving. One wonderful way to share the love of God and Jesus is for each family, small group, or individual to respond by donating to ELCA Good Gifts or the Heifer Project. On November 30, December 7, 14, 21 you will be given the opportunity to provide a gift of life to families locally or in developing nations. You can select from many items - sheep, cows, honey bees, tree seedlings, water, health care, plus more. You will be giving the means to provide sustainable food and health for God's children. You could 'ask for' one of these items as a gift to you or you might choose to give an item in honor of a family member or friend on your Christmas list. Please come to Stellhorn Lounge, 8AM-12:30PM to learn what you can do.

To learn more about Mission ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

Young Discipleship Core Ministry

Splash



Infant/ Toddler ministry is designed to introduce faith formation to families with young children.

Catechism



Middle School ministry intentionally prepares youth for Confirmation milestone at the end of 8th grade.

Bibleland



Children's Ministry includes Sunday morning Bibleland for pre-school—12th grade and Vacation Bible School in June.

Youth



High School Ministry includes monthly Grace Place events, regular service & fun events, and an annual summer trip.

To learn more about Young Discipleship ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

College Care Packages

Zion's high school youth group would like to send small care packages to our friends in college! If your son or daughter is in college, please send their mailing address to knieman@zlc-aa.org by November 9 so we can send them a package. We would also welcome donations of items to include in their package:

- Food
- Cold & flu toiletries (sanitizer, tissues, cough drops)
- School supplies
- Laundry soap pods
- Anything small and fun!

We are hoping to send out about 20 care packages. Any donations can be left in the youth room. Thank you for your help!

Operation Christmas Child – Shoeboxes

Each year, the middle school youth in JAM organize Zion's efforts to fill dozens of shoeboxes to send as Christmas presents to children in poverty throughout the world. These boxes are sent with missionaries and include Bible stories. Full shoeboxes are due on Sunday November 16. More information on how to pack a shoebox is available at <http://www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>. Pick up more information in the Welcome Center or the Youth Room.

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

Adult Class

Continuing through November 9 *The Gospel of Matthew*. Leader: Ron Delph, at both 9:30 and 11AM, in Holtfreter Classroom A. The Gospel of Matthew is a crucial text for understanding the development of the early Christian church. Biblical scholars have long argued that the Gospel of Matthew is the most “Jewish” of the four Gospels. What do they mean by this? How does the portrayal of Jesus in this Gospel differ from the way he is portrayed in the other three Gospels? And how does this Biblical text and its message relate to the Letters and ministry of Paul, and to the other three Gospels? Come and study the Book of Matthew with us, as we explore these and other questions that arise from reading this work.

Prayer Ministry

The prayer committee, with Council's blessing, has implemented some changes regarding prayer requests. You will now find prayer request forms in the pews. The forms have been changed to a new format. The new format was created so that we can all feel more connected to each other and can care for each other in a more tangible way. We want to continue respecting people who want their information kept private while at the same time respect those who want their church family to be aware of specific prayer requests.

The big change is.....If you check the box stating you would like your prayer request shared in worship next week, the person's name will appear on the screen behind the altar during the prayer portion of the service. Names will not be read aloud, but there will be a moment of silence for members and guests to read the screen. The information will appear the week after you write the request and will remain for three weeks. Please remember, however, that God knows our requests before we do.

One aspect that has caused much discussion is the issue of confidentiality. When you request a name for the prayer chain on someone else's behalf, it is good practice to ask the person's permission first. Again, we are trying to respect and care for people with differing desires. We recognize that what we do in public worship may be different from our daily devotions and private prayers.

If you check the box for sharing information on the prayer chain, the information will be given to those who have shown interest in praying for individuals from home. It is also shared with the staff.

If you check the box that says you would like information shared only with the staff, this is exactly what will happen. No one else will know your request, but Zion staff will keep you in its prayers.

If you so desire, please include your relationship to the person you have written down. In the past, names were lifted in prayer, which is most important, but many members didn't know who these people were. We want to reach out to those who have lost a loved one or who are asking for a further connection to God through the people of our congregation.

If you would like a name removed from the list, please call the office or write it on the form.

Another new aspect of prayer requests is that we ask you to put your requests in one of the prayer lanterns on either side of the sanctuary up front as you return from communion. A lantern will also be placed in the Welcome Center. All prayer requests will be collected on Sunday mornings and brought to the office. Requests will be sorted by those that will go on the screen, those that will be distributed to the prayer chain, and those that will be given only to the staff.

Please spread the word about these new changes so that we can reach out to one another. We have already made some changes to our original plan and will continue to make adaptations as necessary. Our main goal is to reach out to others. We want to be a compassionate community representing God's hands and heart.

If you have any questions/comments or concerns, please contact Carolyn King (csking39@comcast.net), other members of the prayer committee, or let one of the pastors know.

To learn more about Adult Discipleship ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

- 1 Corinthians 1: 4—7

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry (cont.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS—FALL 2014

Listed below are existing and new Community Groups. Please contact Christine Carlsen (ccarlsen@zlc-aa.org) for more information on joining or starting a group.

<u>Group make-up / focus / interest</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Location</u>
Open to all, service to the homeless	Kent Peterson	meet irregularly, serve the homeless often			
Women, generally over 50	Debbie Weber	Mondays	7:00PM	twice a month	in homes / at Zion
Open to all, ministry to military families	Laura Girbach	Sundays	5:00PM	every other week	in Girbach's home
Couples with teenagers (currently suspending regular meetings, but continuing with work on Foster Children projects)	Chris Gajar	Sundays	6:30PM	once a month	in homes / at Zion
Open to all	Pastor Walters	Wednesdays	6—7PM	1st Wed of month	at Zion
Couples with young children	Sarah/David Wentzloff	Sundays	1:00PM	every other week	at Zion
Couples with teenagers / empty nesters	Heidi/Todd Newman	Sundays			in homes
Men	Dale Eckart	Mondays	6:30AM	every week	at Zion
Men, bowlers	Mike Weber	Mondays	after bowling	every week	Colonial Lanes
Individuals/couples who like to learn	Ruth Huff	Mondays	7:00PM	every other week	at Zion
Individuals/couples, 50's-70's	Steve & Judy Kesler	Mondays	7:00PM	every other week	in homes
Couples, retired	Charlotte Dootz/Joyce Schlecht	Mondays	7:00PM		in homes
Women, over 70	Linda Greb	Tuesdays	9:30AM	every other week	in homes
Open to all	Ron/Linda Hilst	Sundays	11:00AM	last Sun. of month	at Zion
Open to all	John Leipzig/Avis Ellingrod	Wednesdays	7:00PM	once a month	in Avis Ellingrod's home
Men	Dan McConnell	Thursdays	7:00—8:30AM	every week	at Zion
Recent Empty Nesters	Christy Nelson			occasionally	
God's Gardeners	Carol Brodbeck	Mondays	9:30AM—Noon	third Mon. of month	at Zion
Young couples	Kara Kogelman	Tues. or Wed.	evening	every other week	in homes
Moms	Karen Fry	Thursdays	9:30—11:30AM	2nd & 4th weeks	at Zion

⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 9—10

Call Committee

Call Committee Update

[Ed. Note: No Call Committee report this month.]

Welcome Core Ministry

To learn more about Welcome ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

Member Caring / Family Ministry

Family Advent

We are excited to be offering our second annual Family Advent Event on November 23rd from 4—6PM. Similar in format to last year, families will move from station to station to complete different activities, such as crafts and story telling that help us to remember God's greatest Christmas gift, Jesus, throughout the Advent season! Our activities will be new ones this year, so you will go home with another way to 'count down to Christmas.' We will finish the afternoon with fellowship in Piper Hall as we enjoy sandwiches and chips. Different from last year, we are asking each family to bring a dozen cookies with you to be shared during the dinner. Sign up sheets will be posted throughout the church in the coming weeks. We hope you can join us in kicking off the birth of our Savior!

Help! My Kids Are Driving Me Crazy!

Yours too? Welcome to the club. Sometimes it seems like our children's defining purpose is to push us beyond our ability to cope. Why is that?

Good Reason Why Our Kids Drive Us Crazy

- Our children have a God-given drive to live, and learn, and expand. It's that creative part of the image of God from which we have all been created. This drive helps them to learn to roll over when they are infants, to walk, to talk, and to incessantly ask the question, "Why?" The drive is a good thing. Let's hope they and we never lose it.
- They also have a drive to "individuate," that is, to become their own persons with personality, and values, and opinions. This too is a good thing, for it helps them develop beliefs that will guide how they lead their families and their lives, and live in relationship with others. The difficult part of this drive is that it leads them to question parental values and lifestyle, as they sort through which values they want to keep for themselves.
- A third reason is that they are just plain old inexperienced. As they drive to have new experiences, they make mistakes because they've never been through them before. Their judgment hasn't developed thoroughly yet, because it hasn't had a chance to. This isn't bad, it just is.

Not-So-Good Reasons Why Our Kids Drive Us Crazy

- Ours is a fallen world and we are fallen people. Sin exists in the world, and it is often attractive. Though born with the image of God, we are also born with a vulnerability to the influences of the world. Separated as we are from God and his original design, we are susceptible to making bad choices. Often times, children make choices that conflict with the values and desires of their parents. They choose immediate satisfaction rather than long-term benefit and value.
- Another reason children drive us crazy, is that we as parents have not always provided appropriate parenting. If we are human, we have too often been impatient, or angry, inconsistent or even absent in our parenting. We provide our children with a model to rebel against. We say this, not to be self-condemning; for

most parents really do the best they can with the most sincere and loving intentions. The reality is however, that we make mistakes too.

So what's a parent to do?

We would do well to understand that the primary task of a parent is to love our children in such a way that when they leave our homes as young adults, they are prepared to face the world spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, and mentally. Our mission is to minister to them at all times. Our interactions toward them are to be guided by the image of Jesus ministering to the little ones that came before Him. We are to treat them with the respect and care due to those who are created in His image. This is a tall order. But you can do it!

How Counseling Can Help

Counseling can help parents in a number of ways. It can provide healthy and godly parenting techniques to help parents raise their children. Parents can learn such things as:

- How to talk to kids so they listen
- How to listen to children so they talk to us
- How to set limits without suffocating our children
- How to build self-esteem into our children
- How to deal with our children's anger
- How to handle our own anger with our children
- How to have fun with your children
- How to overcome the "less than perfect" model of parenting from our own childhood
- How to respect our children's differences
- And more!

Counseling for parents and families can occur in a number of ways. The counselor may meet just with the parents to answer questions and provide guidance. Children may come in to the sessions to help them work through their own issues. Family counseling helps both kids and parents identify the issues that need to be corrected, and provides models for healthy interaction.

Our kids don't have to drive us crazy...at least not too much!

[Provided by Samaritan Counseling Services. For more information, e-mail samaritancounselingaa@gmail.com or call 734-677-0609.]

Member Caring Core Ministry (cont.)

Zion Special Seniors Luncheon

Christ in Christmas

Saturday, December 13, 2014 Noon - 2PM

Suggested Donation: \$8/person.

Holiday decorations are going up around town, but after this luncheon's program, you will see Christ in those Christmas decorations.

Wear the colors of Christmas and be prepared to sing some Christmas Carols.

Sign up at the Welcome center on Sunday mornings or call the church office during the week (994-4455). Your guests are always welcome.

Ladies Advent by Candlelight

Time is quickly coming up for our annual Ladies Advent by Candlelight event - Saturday, December 6th, from 5-7PM. Again this year, we will be having a "dessert reception." If you are interested in hosting a table this year, sign up will begin on Sunday, November 2nd in the Welcome Center. This event has become a great way for the ladies of our congregation, their friends and family to begin the season. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Christine Carlsen at ccarlsen@zlc-aa.org.

To learn more about Member Caring ministries, please visit us at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 16, between all services.

TNT: Twenties N' Thirties

TNT is a Zion Christian fellowship group for those in their 20s-30s. Come join us for lots of fun and socializing!

Fellowship Events

Friday, November 14 at 8 pm
Game Night

Join us at the Rudy house, 4847 Shellbark Dr, Ypsi, for a fun evening together!

Bring a favorite game to play if you have one.

Friday, December 12 at 7 pm
Holiday Party w/Chrismon Making

Get into the holiday mood with a dessert party and Chrismon making. Chrismons are tree decorations using Christian symbols that originated in the Lutheran church. Bring a dessert to share.

Taste the Town Thursdays

Join us monthly on Thursdays at
6:30 pm for dinner at new local restaurants!

Thursday, November 20
Tomukun Korean BBQ
505 E. Liberty St, Ste. 100

Thursday, December 18
Bigolora
3050 Washtenaw Ave, Ste. 112

Never been before?— no problem!
Look for the table with the Zion sign.

Sunday Breakfasts

We'll meet the first Sunday of each month to enjoy food & fellowship before attending the 11AM Zion worship service.

Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Rd, at 9:30AM

Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, (no April), May 3

RSVPs, ?s, Get on our mailing list— email tntziona2@gmail.com.

Thank You and Congratulations

The Red Cross blood drive at Zion on October 6 yielded 31 units, meeting our goal and potentially providing 93 people with life-giving blood! Thanks to everyone who participated -- blood donors (including those who came in to give, but were deferred), cookie and food providers, and everyone who volunteered at the drive itself. Anyone who has had a blood transfusion at any time knows how important this ministry is. Statistics show that only 10% of eligible donors actually do so. Please consider if you can help. Zion's next drive is on Monday, February 16, 2015, and Trinity is having one on December 18, so mark the dates and sign up when you can. Thanks again.

- Mary Pearson and Deborah Weber, Coordinators

Other News

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold its twentieth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday evening, November 23rd, at 7PM, at the Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly, 5550 Morgan Road, Ypsilanti. Join us in a spirit of gratitude with readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Light refreshments following the celebration. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2015 Interfaith Calendars also available. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 734-424-1535.

Emmy Weinert Mission Blog

Follow Zion's Emmy Weinert as she chronicles her adventures and reflections while in Soweto, South Africa via her blog at: emmeline-marie.blogspot.com.

Emmy has been placed at a Lutheran HIV/AIDS ministry in Soweto through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission. She is the daughter of Layale and Bryan Weinert.



Synod / LSSM News

Foster Care Family Room Renovations

Lutheran Social Services' foster care professionals are dedicated to reunifying children in foster care with their families. The program works at rebuilding communication and trust during child-parent visits in LSSM foster care offices around the state. These family meeting rooms are in poor condition and need remodeling urgently due to how often they are used. The rooms need age-appropriate, durable furnishings (\$5,000). Rooms also require monitoring equipment so that, if required by the courts, a caseworker can supervise the visit from a remote location (\$1,500 to \$5,000). Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the rooms in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Detroit have been remodeled, but others in Flint, Jackson, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Troy still need work. Your gift will make the difference. If you can help, please contact Jennifer Richard, (248) 763-7914 or jrich@lssm.org in Southeast Michigan.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- Matthew 25: 34—39

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday, November 1

11:00AM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday, November 2

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/The Garden Room

Monday, November 3

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

Tuesday, November 4

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Church Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:15 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station

Wednesday, November 5

10:00 AM Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Walters Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:30 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, November 6

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, November 7

12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, November 8

11:00 AM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday, November 9

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/The Garden Room
 12:15 PM Catechism/Gathering & Youth Room

Monday, November 10

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, November 11

9:00 AM Waterman Board Meeting/The Gathering
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 12

1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, November 13

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, November 14

3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 8:00 PM High School Lock-In/Youth Room

Saturday, November 15

9:00 AM Leadership Retreat/Off Site
 11:00 AM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday, November 16

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/The Garden Room

Monday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 19

1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, November 20

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Peace Neighborhood Dinner/Hall, Lounge, W.C.
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, November 21

12:15 PM Zion Singers/Music Room #1
 1:30 PM Set up for SERRV Sale/Stellhorn Lounge
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, November 22

9:00 AM SERRV Sale/Stellhorn Lounge
 11:00 AM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday, November 23

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM SERRV Sale/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/The Garden Room
 3:30 PM Music Recital/Sanctuary, W.C., Chapel, Lounge
 4:00 PM Family Advent Night/2nd Floor and throughout Church
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, November 24

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

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, November 27—Thanksgiving

Office Closed

Friday, November 28

Office Closed

Saturday, November 29

11:00 AM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday November 30

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room A
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/The Garden Room
 12:30 PM Schlachter Family Reunion/Stellhorn Lounge

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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October Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: John Robert Meyer, parents Brian and Sara Meyer; Pearl Joyelle Gih, parents Dan & Brandi Gih

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS:

NEW MEMBERS:

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

President: Margie Reynolds (margiereynolds@comcast.net)
Vice-Pres: Lorin Cartwright (cartwrl@gmail.com)
Secretary: Laura Berry (berry.laura@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand (bobbertrand@yahoo.com)
At Large: Diane Hunt (dianhunt@umich.edu)
Christine Karshin (ckarshin@emich.edu)
Dennis Kaye (denniskaye@sbcglobal.net)
Nick Kogleman (nkogelman@gmail.com)
Vickie Matthews (vickiematthews@comcast.net)
Connie McComb (cmccomb0822@comcast.net)

Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart, Holli Bertram
Welcome: Chris Karpinnen, *Vacant*
Adult Discipleship: Sonja Page, Felicia Leipzig
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya
Member-Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach
Missions: Mike Kreykes, Mark Gunderson

Support Ministries

Personnel: Tim Damschroder, Bethany Kaye
Building & Grounds: Bill Lehmann, Doug Behnke
Financial Stewardship: Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT: David Anderson, Ray Vanderbok

Staff

Senior Pastor	<i>Vacant</i>
Welcome / Interim Senior Pastor	Michael Walters
Interim Associate Pastor	Rod Buland
Director, Adult Discipleship	Christine Carlsen
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	Kelly Nieman-Anderson
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
Director of Music	Rob Meyer
Organist	<i>Vacant</i>
Praise Team Director	Tim VanRiper
Sound Operator	Tyler Dence
Worship Media Coordinator	Eddie VanRiper
Resident Custodian	Chris LeVasseur
Weekend Custodian	Patrick Peck
Wedding Coordinator	Andrea Clark-Ribick
Nursery Coordinator	Jasmine Schuler

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

www.zlc-aa.org.

Office phone 994-4455