

The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

March 2015

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 Jim

Getting Started



Dear Disciples of Zion Lutheran Ann Arbor, thank you for your gracious welcome and keeping us in your prayers. Barbara and I are so thankful to join you in the mission and ministry here at Zion. Your prayers and support made our move to your community so smooth. We are now located at 3408 Breckland Court, in Ann Arbor. We have secured a 6 month lease for a condo in Oak Meadows, just off Oak Valley. We hope to purchase a home in the coming months. So we will be looking for just the right place for us to call home.

We so enjoy meeting everyone. Please continue to share your names with us again and again. We want to hear your faith and life stories. Hopefully, we will be creating more opportunities for smaller gatherings that will allow us more time for conversation. We both hope to stop by many of the existing small groups to say, "Hi." You may also contact me by e-mail at jdebner@zlc-aa.org.

This Lent we will be focusing on the discipline of Prayer, communication with God. During the coming months we continue to explore all the other marks of discipleship. Integrity, grace and mercy lead to a fuller life. It takes faithfulness and commitment to be disciples. Together we will explore Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Daily Bible Reading, and Service to Others, Fellowship and Giving Generously. This Lent we are invited to experience repentance, forgiveness, sacrifice and everlasting love while heading to the cross with Jesus. Christ's death and resurrection allows new beginnings, new starts, and new journeys. Let me challenge you this Lent to not just give things up, but to take up new disciplines that enhance our faith. Don't let EGO (edging God out) direct your relationships with God and others.

Weekly we will be adding a Wednesday chapel time at 10AM in Zion's Yeager Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join us for the reading of scripture, prayers, singing, and Holy Communion. This service will be no longer than 30 minutes.

It is my prayer that this coming year we can feel empowered to take risks, begin new ministries, and keep focused on God's unchanging and everlasting love for us and for the world.

Other News

Farewell and Godspeed

Zion says farewell and Godspeed to Christine Carlsen, Associate in Ministry, on Sunday March 8, 2015. All three Sunday services will take time to honor her twenty years of ministry at Zion and to bid her God's Speed and Farewell as she retires and begins a new journey in her life. In between services there will be informal receptions with light snacks, and following the 11AM service, there will be a Celebration Luncheon in Piper Hall. All are welcome!

Christine has been a wonderful asset for the staff and congregation. Not only has she shared with each of us her years of ministry experience but also her love of Zion, the history of this church and its people. Her caring and loving personality for all who are in need has been and continues to be a faithful witness to God's love.

Called by God later in years to become a rostered leader of God's church, Christine weekly drove to Columbus, Ohio where she attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and in 2009, received a Masters of Theological Studies degree. She included in her studies the necessary course work in Homiletics so that she could also be included in the proclamation of the Gospel here at Zion. We have been blessed by her presence, love, proclamation of the Gospel, and all-around caring personality. You will be missed.

As a called and consecrated servant of God's church, to you we say: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

- Pr. Jim and Pr. Mike

Other News (cont.)

More from Pastor Jim

The Call Team and Council created Senior Pastor Expectations that came with my call to Zion Ann Arbor. I will be using these as a guide for my time and focus. A senior pastor job description follows, that is to be my emphasis for the first 6 – 12 months. These expectations will help Zion to grow into our Vision Statement. Communication between staff, Council, core ministries, teams and the congregation is essential. I will be reminding everyone that we need to communicate with each other on the work we are doing together.

Senior Pastor Expectations

1. Provide effective leadership as Zion transitions from a membership model of ministry to a discipleship model, including:
 - Move from a pastorally-driven to a congregationally-driven worship community
 - Value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all of God's people
 - Strive for shared ministry with the Zion community
 - Communicate a radical openness to all, not just those inside Zion
 - Focus on giving rather than getting
2. Working with other Zion leaders, manage change to:
 - Establish a sense of urgency around Zion's Vision
 - Develop strategies to implement Zion's Vision
 - Continually communicate and demonstrate Zion's Vision
 - Empower leaders to make meaningful change and take risks
 - Create short term goals and celebrate milestones
 - Anchor and reinforce positive changes in behavior
3. Lead rather than manage
 - Engage with religious "thinkers" and "thought leaders" to assure Zion is continually refining its vision and actions to address new challenges
 - Challenge Zion leaders to resist the status quo
 - Develop and raise up other leaders
4. Serve as the spiritual leader, guide, and mentor at Zion
 - Develop passionate followers of Christ, not just more members
 - Seek out individuals based on their spiritual gifts and equip them to lead
 - Mentor all of the Zion community in commitment to the marks of discipleship
 - Lead from a position of vulnerable and transparent faith and teach others to do the same

Zion Lutheran's Senior Pastor Job Description for first 6-12 months

1. Function as head of staff
 - Develop a staffing model to promote the implementation of Zion's Vision, with the understanding that some staff will be leaving and all positions are fluid.
 - Work with the Associate Pastor/Welcome Pastor (as he returns to his original call) to evaluate future areas of responsibility.
 - Interface with Council and Personnel Committee to create and implement a staff evaluation process that focuses on Vision development.
 - Provide support and guidance, as needed, to all Support Ministries (Endowment Board, Building and Grounds, Personnel, Stewardship & Finance)
2. Provide a strong spiritual presence for Zion Council.
3. Provide the primary pastoral lead for Worship Core Ministry and music for all worship services, understanding that the current contemporary worship leader departed in December 2014.
4. Provide the primary lead for Adult Discipleship during the first year, understanding that the current lead will be retiring in March.
5. Review leadership of Mission, Welcome and Member Caring Core Ministries and delegate leadership among staff, understanding that Young Discipleship is currently led by a staff member who will be here through October 2015.
6. Share pastoral care responsibilities with staff, Stephen Ministers and the Care Cadre.
7. Participate in and delegate pastoral acts (weddings, funerals, baptisms).
8. Participate in and delegate Biblically-based preaching responsibilities.
9. Initially represent Zion in needed community interfaces, such as Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.
10. Work with Financial Stewardship Team, Council, and the Endowment Board to review, modernize, and structure processes that will enhance and secure Zion's financial future.

I'm inviting the Holy Spirit to give us the strength, wisdom and will to keep our eyes focused on God's kingdom work.

Congregation Council

January 20, 2015—Highlights

Transition Plan for Kelly Nieman Anderson

Tom Clifford on behalf of Young Discipleship Core Ministry described a possible plan for Kelly to hold a blended position of Adult Discipleship and Young Discipleship Coordinator when Chris Carlsen retires, and proposed that a new Young Discipleship staff member be hired by April 1, before the school year ends. Kelly could train this new staff member.

To fulfill her seminary requirements, Kelly must do a year-long internship to be completed by 2016. Kelly can start applying for internships February 13. While Kelly would like to do her internship at Zion, Zion Council, the SE MI Synod, and the Bishop would need to agree. Even if Kelly were to do her internship at Zion, the plan would still be to hire a Young Discipleship coordinator.

After discussion, Council members agreed we would be glad to have Kelly here for her internship, but believe that the decision will need to be between Kelly, new Senior Pastor Jim Debner, and the Bishop (and Kelly's degree-conferring institution). Council suggested developing a job description for the combined position for Pastor Jim to consider. Young Discipleship Core Ministry leaders' next step will be to discuss plans with Pastor Jim.

Financial Report for December 2014

Bob summarized that for the year 2014, we were \$11,184 in the red. Expenses were favorable to budget, but income was behind. Available cash at the end of December was \$118,755. Cash in the operations account as of 01/15/15 is approximately \$132,500. We currently have sufficient cash on hand to last well into the year. Cash on hand will probably start to run low in late summer or early fall without a disbursement from the Endowment Fund.

- **Income:** For the month of December, contributions were \$112,573, which was \$32,931 less than what was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$136,777 in December of 2013, and \$126,201 in December of 2012. For the entire year, contributions were \$868,335, which was \$35,615 less than budgeted, and \$1,764 less than last year.
- **Expenses:** Four ministries were over budget in December, though over all, we were \$17,037 below budget for the month. For the full year, spending was \$111,974 less than budgeted.
- **Building Fund:** Contributions to the "Down with the Debt" fund were \$4,040.12 by 25 givers in December. The minimum principal payment for January was \$2,315.72; Zion paid the full amount of \$4040.12 received in December plus the minimal principal payment from the Operations fund. We owe Thrivent \$115,904.93 as of the end of December. As of the beginning of December we owed \$405,000 in member loans. In mid-December, one member forgave

\$200,000 of the remaining balance. As of the end of December we will owe \$205,000 in member loans.

We received 199 pledges totaling \$620,056 for 2015. This compares to 187 pledges totaling \$605,236 for 2014, 243 pledges totaling \$672,354 for 2013, and 179 pledges totaling \$513,612 for 2012.

Attendance for the year of 2014 was 17,368 (20,252 including Bibleland) compared to 18,538 in 2013. Offerings in 2014 were \$868,335, compared to \$870,099 in 2013. Offering per person in 2014 was \$50 compared to \$46.94 in 2013.

Building Use Policy Issue and Plans

Recently the Buildings and Grounds Team asked to add a policy addendum about moving furniture; Margie and Pastor Mike have discussed whether the policy appears to be not welcoming. Margie and Vickie will review the building use policy to ensure it conveys that we want people to use the building. They intend to make suggestions for B&G's consideration. After B&G's review, it would come before Council again.

Nominations

Christine Karshin reported on the people who have been willing to accept nominations for leadership positions at Zion, and where positions are still open. To cast the net wider, Christine and Connie will indicate the positions that are still open in this Sunday's church bulletin to invite participation.

Call Committee

February 1 will be the first Sunday that the Debners will be here and Pastor Jim will serve communion. On Sunday February 8, Pastor Jim will preach and serve communion. Pastor Jim's installation will be February 22 at 3PM. The Call Committee will be sending out a letter to the congregation and will put together a news release. The Call Committee is also discussing welcome meals for when the Debners arrive.

Dispute Resolution Center Plans

Follow up item from November and December 2014. Lorin reported that emails have been sent out, and the Dispute Resolution Center staff are contacting people, usually calling on Saturdays and after hours. Email Lorin if you want to be included in the dispute resolution.

Council Member Interactions Between Services

Council discussed the implementation of this idea and will continue to do this in February if appropriate, and again in March.

Correction: In the 20th Annual Congregational Report, Ron Hilst's position as President of the Board of Samaritan Counseling Services was inadvertently omitted from the Samaritan Counseling Services report.

Worship Core Ministry

March Lectionary

- Mar 1** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38
Mar 8 Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22
Mar 15 Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
Mar 22 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
Mar 29 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 15:1-39

Lenten Restraint Becomes Easter Alleluias

During Lent we refrain from using the word "Alleluia" in our worship. However, our Zion music ensembles are busy preparing Gospel-centered music for the Sundays of Lent and Holy Week through Easter (including a whole lot of "Alleluias!"). You are invited to join us as we share the message of Christ crucified, died and risen for all in song!

Zion Music Rehearsal Schedule

- Liberty Street (Zion's Praise Band) - Wednesday at 6:45PM in the Praise Band Room or Sanctuary
- Zion Handbells - Thursday at 6PM in the Sanctuary
- Chancel Choir - Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary
- Zion Singers - Friday morning/afternoon (see schedule below) in 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. We rehearse for an hour and then go to a pre-arranged retirement, assisted living, nursing care or hospice facility to present a brief program for an audience of the residents. Our March date is Friday, March 27. Come join the fun! For more information contact Rob Meyer (rmeyer@zlc-aa.org).

Holy Week Services, March 29—April 5

Palm Sunday, March 29—Services at 8:15, 9:30 and 11AM. First Communion celebrated in the 9:30 service.

The Triduum

Maundy Thursday, April 2—Service at 7PM

Good Friday, April 3—Tenebrae service at 7PM

Holy Saturday, April 4—Easter Vigil service at 8PM

Easter Sunday, April 5—Festival services at 8:15, 9:30 and 11AM

Teaching Inserts/Bookmarks

In Advent 2013, teaching inserts (or bookmarks) began to show up in the hymnal racks in the pews. These inserts have been designed by our staff and are intended to be a teaching tool about our worship life as Lutheran Christians. These inserts include information about the current season of the church year, information about the color of the current season, and information about some part of our worship service that is applicable to all three styles of worship here at Zion. They also include devotional resources (readings, a prayer, etc.) that are particularly relevant to the current season of the church year.

Lent

There is now a new insert in the pews for Lent and Holy Week. Please feel free to take these inserts home and use them in your individual worship time or daily devotional life.

Lenten Schedule

Mid-week Services Continuing through March

- 12:00 noon in the Chapel—parables on what we receive through the crucified Jesus Christ
- 6:30PM in the Sanctuary—Holden Evening Prayer liturgy

See Page 6 for more information.

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:34—35

Young Discipleship Core Ministry

Laser Tag

Youth of all ages are invited to join us Sunday March 15 at 6PM for Laser Tag at Zap Zone Ann Arbor (on Carpenter Rd.). For only \$20, players get unlimited laser tag, cannon blaster, and bumper cars. Arcade games and snacks available for additional purchase. No RSVP necessary. Children 5th grade and under should bring an adult with them.



First Communion

First Communion is an important step in faith development. At Zion, students in fourth grade or approximately age nine who have been baptized are invited to celebrate their First Communion with their family on Palm Sunday, March 29 during 9:30AM worship service. First Communion families also join together in a Seder Meal and celebration dinner on Saturday March 28 at 5PM at Zion.



Families interested in their children participating in the First Communion this year are asked to join us Sunday March 1 from 9:30AM – 12:30PM. More details have been sent to families registered for 4th grade Bibleland. Please contact knieman@zlc-aa.org to register your child for the First Communion Milestone event, and with any questions or concerns you might have.

Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars now for the Family Easter Egg Hunt and Party, Saturday April 4, 4—5:30PM. Please arrive promptly for the egg hunt. Afterwards, we will go upstairs for pizza, veggie, drinks, crafts and fun. The hunt and party will occur rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, all activities will be inside.

You can register on the sign outside the Gathering upstairs or the sign in the Welcome Center. You can also email Carolyn King at csking39@comcast.net. Please include names and ages of children and names of any adults attending by March 29.

Hope to see you!

Election Results

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 15, 2015, the following were elected to leadership positions effective April 1:

Congregation Council

- Secretary—Laura Berry
- Treasurer—Bob Bertrand
- Members-at-Large—Bob Thompson, Mark Warwashana, Nick Kogelman, Vicki Matthews

Core Ministries

- Worship—Dale Eckart
- Welcome—Joanne Dence
- Adult Discipleship—Sonja Page
- Young Discipleship—Tom Clifford
- Caring—Dianne Daily
- Mission—Layale Weinert

Support Ministries

- Building & Grounds—Bill Lehmann
- Financial Stewardship—Nick Rogers
- Personnel—Dave Werner, Tim Damschroder

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

Adult Class

Be Still and Know that I Am God, Sunday mornings at both 9:30 and 11AM, through March 29. You may think that quiet contemplation is not “your thing,” or you may yearn for more of it. No matter where you may fall on that continuum, consider joining us to explore, expand, and enrich your prayer life. Each session will begin with a video presentation, followed by discussion and experience.

- February 22 Fall More Deeply in Love with God
- March 1 [Prayer Labyrinth Class, see below]
- March 8 What is Contemplative Prayer?
- March 15 Silence and Scripture: The Core of Contemplative Prayer
- March 22 *Lectio Divina*: The Practice of Contemplative Prayer

Prayer Emphasis this Lent

In addition to our traditional observances of Lent, this year we are also focusing considerable attention on our individual and communal prayer lives.

The foundation of any healthy relationship is good, open, honest communication. For Christians, that includes prayer - it is the way we communicate with God and the way God communicates with us. How healthy is your communication with God? Do you have questions about prayer? Would you like to learn and experience various forms of prayer? We will spend time during Lent enriching our communal and individual prayer lives. Please attend as many of the opportunities as you can to enrich your prayer life.

Weekly Lenten evening services at 6:30PM, in the Sanctuary will begin with about 15 minutes asking and answering questions about prayer, followed by the Holden Evening Prayer service each week. (Holden Evening Prayer was written in 1985-86 while Marty Haugen was the musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington state. This lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language.)

- February 25 What is Prayer?
- March 4 Why Do We Pray?
- March 11 How Do We Pray?
- March 18 When Do We Pray?
- March 25 Does God Answer Prayers?

Additional opportunities to learn more about prayer during Lent:

- *Prayer Labyrinth Mini-Retreat* - Saturday, February 28, 9-noon. We will have a portable labyrinth in Piper Hall, and Pastor Dana Runestad will teach us about the Labyrinth and lead us in how to walk and pray it.
- *Prayer Labyrinth Introductory Class* - Sunday, March 1, at 9:30 & 11AM, in Piper Hall. Pastor Dana will return to offer a brief introduction to the Prayer Labyrinth for those who could not come on Saturday.
- *Prayer Labyrinth Guided Walk* - Sunday, March 1, 1-3 pm. If you've never walked a prayer labyrinth before, Pastor Dana will lead a prayer walk.

Please register for each of these sessions at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings, via e-mail to ccarlsen@zlc-aa.org, or call the church office at 734-994-4455. The prayer labyrinth will then be available March 2—6 for your own, individual opportunity to experience walking and praying it. Monday/Tuesday/Thursday - 9AM—9PM; Wednesday/Friday - 9AM—5PM. You don't need to reserve time - just come, take your time, and pray as you walk.

Noon Lenten Services, followed by lunch. Each week we'll look at a different parable to learn what we receive through the crucified Jesus Christ.

- February 25 - Receive the Word
- March 4 - Receive the Treasure
- March 11 - Receive Mercy
- March 18 - Receive Grace
- March 25 - Receive Forgiveness

Adult Class, see above.

Finally, **Small Community Groups** are encouraged to read, learn about, share, and practice prayer during Lent. For suggestions, please contact Christine Carlsen, (ccarlsen@zlc-aa.org).

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry (cont.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS—WINTER 2014-15

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.

Group make-up / focus / interest	Leader(s)	Day	Time	Frequency	Location
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	Mary Ardner	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

Community Group Study Materials

Small Group Discussion materials are available for your use! For all current Small Groups and for all who wish to convene for just a few weeks to read and discuss a book, there is a kiosk in Classroom B, downstairs, below the Welcome Center, full of multiple copies of many titles for you to borrow. They are all excellent resources - here is a partial list of titles:

- *Rumours* by Philip Yancey
- *A Wakeful Faith* by J. Marshall Jenkins
- *Taking Faith to Work - Next Steps for Christian Discipleship* by Paul M. Minus
- *Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life* by Kenneth C. Haugk
- *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allan Powell
- *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg
- *Opening the Bible - What It Is, Where it Came From, What it Means for You* by Robert Kysar
- *People of Purpose - 40 Life Lessons from the New Testament* by Robert Driver-Bishop
- *Between the Words - The Art of Perceptive Listening* by Dr. Norm Wakefield
- *The Sacred Romance - Drawing Closer to the Heart of God* by Brent Curtis and John Eldredge
- *The Journey Into God - Healing and Christian Faith* by Kenneth L. Bakken
- *The Case For Christ - A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence of Jesus* by Lee Strobel

Mission Core Ministry

Peace Neighborhood Center

[Ed. Note: Another in a continuing series of articles about local, national and international missions supported by Mission Core Ministry.]

Peace Neighborhood Center is a local community center on Maple Road, which serves kids, families and individuals from the Washtenaw County area. Perhaps you drive by the building, and wonder what things they do there? Peace provides after-school programs, tutoring, after-school meals and summer day camp for kids ages 5-17, most of whom attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. We also provide transitional housing for families who are in need, eviction prevention and emergency assistance for individuals and families, and college preparation courses and activities for young adults. Our goal is to provide wrap-around services that help our clients succeed and break a cycle of poverty and social issues.



Zion Lutheran Church has been an integral part of what Peace Neighborhood Center does since its beginnings in 1971. Zion, in partnership with Trinity Lutheran, provided Peace the space for its programs for three decades at its location on the old Peace Lutheran Church property. As a part of its mission to serve the community, Zion donated the property to Peace along with helping to fund the construction of its main building in 2003. In 2009, Zion also contributed significantly to the funding necessary to renovate the older building into becoming the Peace House Transitional Housing Center. Zion annually supports Peace Neighborhood Center's Youth Service programs and its Summer Day Camp. Quite a few Zion Lutheran Church congregation members tutor, cook, and serve as volunteers at Peace Neighborhood Center, as well as provide generous financial support that has helped Peace keep serving the community for over 40 years.

Peace has a special place in Amy Pachera's heart. She has proudly served on the Board at Peace for over 7 years. She has witnessed lives being changed, children being given a place they feel safe and welcome and are encouraged to aspire to achieve great things all the way up through preparing for college. If you want to talk to her more about Peace, you can contact her at ampachera@gmail.com, or 734.320.9208.

If you would like to be more involved with Peace, please call MaryAnn Meyers, Volunteer Tutor Coordinator at (734) 662-3564 or send her an email at mmeyers@peaceneighborhoodcenter.org.

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Opportunities to Donate and Recycle

In the Welcome Center:

No Empty Hands – currently for Hope Clinic and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti. Both groups have seen an increase in the number of people who are requesting non-perishable food due to the cut in food stamps, especially peanut butter and cereal. Also, Hope Clinic provides non-food items such as disposable diapers (especially sizes 4 and 5), baby food, baby layettes, paper items, laundry detergent, toilet paper and toiletries.

Aging-out foster teens - Here is the long wish/need list for these teens, who are on their own, with little or no family support: cleaning supplies (Lysol, sponges, Windex, dish soap, Scrubbing Bubbles, Tide, dish towels, bleach); hygiene items (deodorant, soap, body wash, toilet paper, lotion, tampons); electronics (television, cell phone minutes); bedding/towels (new full/queen sheets, new towels/washcloths, new comforters, new bath mat sets); small appliances (can opener, microwave, coffee pot); gift cards (Walmart, Visa, Kroger, Meijer, etc.). These items can be brought to the Welcome Center (find the basket near the Sanctuary entrance) or the church office. These items are always needed, since teens "age out" every month.

By the elevator, next to the Lounge:

Bring pink yogurt tops, stamps (cancelled or new – for a mission project in Germany), box tops for education and barcodes from Campbell's soup cans (both assist LSSM to provide for their clients). Place items in the container on the table next to the elevator.

Downstairs:

Everything we recycle is downstairs, just below the Welcome Center, under the "front" steps, near the wide hallway into Piper Hall.



Recycle Write (there is also a box in Bibleland) – Clean out your desk drawers, purses, backpacks – and bring in all of your broken, used, or dried out pens, pencils, markers. [Items to bring: pens, pencils (mechanical and wood), highlighters, dry erase markers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, correction tape (no fluids), erasers, packaging (no cellophane).] Items are sent to a company that recycles the parts, and sends 2 cents for each item back to Mott Children's Hospital. To bring this program to your place of business, go to www.recycle.umich.edu for more information, and to download a flyer to place on collection boxes.

Old cell phones, PDA's, iPods, CFL light bulbs. (Batteries can now be put in the trash in Ann Arbor). Zion's Youth are now collecting these items as a fund raiser for the National Youth Gathering this coming summer.

Returnable bottles and cans – for our mission partners, Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg, in Tanzania.

Caring Core Ministry

Hope, Health and Healing in the Holy Land

A one day seminar for interested health care professionals
(nurses, physical therapists, mental health folks, clergy,
and any interested parties)

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

9:30AM to 2:00PM - Lunch provided

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor MI 48103

Presenter - Raeda Mansour, RN BSN

Faith Community Nurse

Intergenerational Program Manager for Diyar Consortium

Raeda works with Diyar (meaning "home" in Arabic), a Lutheran-based ecumenical organization serving the whole Palestinian community in Bethlehem, with emphasis on children, youth, women and the elderly.

RSVP by April 3 to:

Lois Schlachter (734-665-8297; loisschlachte@yahoo.com)

or

Mary Ardner (734-662-4197; maryard45@yahoo.com) or the church office (734-994-4455)

Sports Potatoes ("They play, we cheer!")

In our ongoing effort to attend a variety of affordable, family-friendly sports events, we have selected some new ones to check out. Since these are all general admission events, please purchase your own tickets at www.mgoblue.com or at the door/gate. If you work or are a student at the University of Michigan, most of these events are likely free for you, with your ID. Look for us with our "Go Blue / Sports Potatoes" signs, so we can sit together!

- Saturday, March 21, 11:30AM/4:30PM—Women's Gymnastics, Big Ten Championships, Crisler Center
- Friday, April 17, 6PM—Softball vs. Indiana, Wilpon Complex
- Friday, May 1, 6PM—Baseball vs. Iowa, Wilpon Complex

If you would like to create a schedule for the Sports Potatoes for next year, please let Diane Rinehart in the church office know! With Christine's retirement, this fun group is in need of a new coordinator.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

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

Saturday, March 14 at 7PM

Bowling @ Belmark Lanes

Join us at Belmark Lanes, 3530 Jackson Rd.

April

Habit for Humanity Build

Each year, Zion helps with Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity blitz week in April. We'll be volunteering during this week to help restore a foreclosed home for a new family!

Saturday, May 16 at 10AM

Toledo Zoo

Join us for a fun day at the zoo! Park opens at 10am.

Meet at the ticket window.

Taste the Town Thursdays

Join us monthly on Thursdays at

6:30PM for dinner at new local restaurants!

Thursday, March 5

Mezzevino

120 E. Liberty St

Thursday, April 9

Frita Batidos

117 W. Washington St.

Thursday, May 7

Lena

226 South Main St

Never been before?— no problem!

Look for the table with the Zion sign.

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

Thank You and Congratulations

Hey Zion! Greetings from sunny California! After months of planning, praying, and looking forward to this move I am so excited to report that it is absolutely incredible! The weather, atmosphere, and culture are exactly what I need right now. I can't thank the Zion community enough for your boundless love and support of me over the past, well, whole life! I am so blessed to have grown up in a church of such loving, grace-filled, and service-focused people who have molded and shaped my life beyond measure. I look forward to seeing you all again, as Ann Arbor will always be a home for me. Thank you all, God's grace and peace to you, and hey, if you're ever in LA...

Peace,

Tim VanRiper

The American Red Cross blood drive here at Zion on February 16 resulted in 36 units of blood being collected for use in our SE Michigan region--well exceeding our goal! Thanks to everyone who participated in any way, including those who came to donate but had to be deferred for health or other reasons. It was such a cold day, and your willingness to assist in this life-giving effort is truly appreciated. Those who donated are eligible again as of April 13, and if you want to donate at Zion's next drive on Monday June 8, then April 13 would be the only day you could do it (56 days are required between donations). If you know you will be unable to donate at Zion on June 8, consider going to the next Trinity drive on April 23, or donating at another location. Please keep in mind that every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood; more than 41,000 blood donations are needed nation-wide, every day; and a single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood! Thank you, one and all.

Mary Pearson and Deborah Weber

Synod / LSSM News

Senior Subsidized Housing at LSSM

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan provides low-income senior housing for independent living. The department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance based on income eligibility. There are LSSM homes in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Rochester Hills, Detroit, Allegan, Cheboygan, Mt Pleasant, Alpena, Onaway, Galesburg, Ann Arbor, Whitehall, and Montague. If you would like to get more information about these homes, or learn how you can help support them, please call Lutheran Social Service of Michigan at 800-238-2050 and ask for Senior Subsidized Housing.

LSSM is our agency for helping the needy in Michigan. It is one of the largest faith-based social services agencies in the country and it provides support to a large range of needy clients. Much of LSSM's budget comes from contracts with State or Federal agencies for specific services. But the need is much larger and LSSM is constantly trying to find ways to expand its network of help. This requires funds that are not directly tied to specific services and that's one place that we church members come in. Through our donations of time, items and money, we provide LSSM with the ability to help people who might be falling into the cracks between large programs. Each month, we try to give you information on programs of this type and ways you can help. Please think about what you can do.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

The Women of the ELCA are partnering with ELCA National Youth Gathering participants to collect disposable diapers for families that cannot afford them, as in-kind gifts and service, when they meet in Detroit July 15-19. Youth Gathering participants have historically left an in-kind donation in each of the host cities. Staff and planning teams consult with local Lutheran Social Service, clergy, and other non-profit agencies and organizations to determine the most pressing needs in the community. Past offerings have included children's books, gift cards, and non-perishable food items.

The planning team for the Detroit gathering found that non-profits that work with families and individuals living in poverty consistently list diapers as a top concern. Parents who rely on federal assistance programs can't get diapers through those programs. Not having an adequate supply of diapers means that a parent can't leave children at daycare (which requires that parents supply disposable diapers), so the parent cannot go to work or school, continuing the vicious cycle of poverty.

Starfish Family Services of Inkster has agreed to store and distribute to qualified clients the disposable diapers given as in-kind gift offerings by the Youth Gathering attendees. Diapers will be collected at the 150+ hotels where the youth will stay. On their service day, young people will load the diapers into trailers that will be hauled by local volunteers to the Starfish Family Services building. There, the youth will unload the trailers, take inventory and organize the diapers by size. Starfish will then store and distribute the diapers.

If you would like to support this effort by either supplying diapers or providing money for youth to purchase diapers, please contact Lois Schlachter for more information (734-665-8297 or loisschlachte@yahoo.com).

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1

8:15 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 8:15 AM Adult Discipleship/Class Room A
 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Bibleland Meeting/Class Room C
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Chapel
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 12:15 PM National Youth Gathering Meeting/Youth Room

Monday, March 2

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 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, March 3

8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 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
 7:15 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station

Wednesday, March 4

8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 10:00 AM Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
 10:00 AM Prayer Time/Chapel
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service/Sanctuary
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Lent Mid-Week Service/Sanctuary
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, March 5

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Adult Discipleship Meeting/Christine's Office
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, March 6

8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall
 12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, March 7

8:00 AM Labyrinth Walk/Piper Hall

Sunday, March 8

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 12:00 PM Christine's Farewell Luncheon/Piper Hall
 4:00 PM Youth Bowling/Colonial Lanes

Monday, March 9

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, March 10

9:00 AM Good Thyme Garden Club/Creation Station
 9:00 AM Waterman Board/The Gathering
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Chapel
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lent worship/Sanctuary
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Mid-Week Lent worship/Sanctuary
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, March 12

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
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Pastor's Office
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, March 13

2:30 PM Samaritan Board Meeting/Creation Station
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, March 14

5:00 PM Erickson Violin Recital/Yeager Chapel

Sunday, March 15

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 6:00 PM Youth Laser Tag

Monday, March 16

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Main Kitchen
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Tuesday, March 17

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 2:00 PM IDAP/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 AM Program Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
 10:00 AM Prayer Time/Chapel
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service/Sanctuary
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:30 PM Lent Mid-Week Worship/Sanctuary
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
 8:30 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Thursday, March 19

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 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
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Friday, March 20

3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Saturday, March 21

8:00PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Sunday, March 22

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Class Room A
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Class Room A
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 12:15 PM Catechism/The Gathering & Youth Room
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Monday, March 23

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
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Chapel
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service/Sanctuary
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Mid-Week Lent Service/Sanctuary
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
 8:30 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

Thursday, March 26

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Easter Music Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, March 27

12:15 PM Zion Singers/Music Room #1
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:00 PM Seder Meal Set-Up/Main Kitchen & Hall
 6:00 PM Scarp Booking/The Gathering
 9:00 PM Cana-Berkeley Youth Lock In/Youth Room

Saturday, March 28

9:00 AM Scrap Booking/The Gathering
 5:00 PM Seder Meal/Main Kitchen & Hall
 9:00 PM Cana Berkeley Youth Lock In/Youth Room

Sunday, March 29

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM First Communion/Nicklas Library
 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Class Room A
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Class Room A
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

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

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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February Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: Grayson and Adelyn Thurber, parents Greg & Melissa Thurber

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS: Roberta Purdon; Carl S. Ernst

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
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	James Debner
Welcome Pastor	Michael Walters
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	<i>Vacant</i>
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