

# The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

**May 2015**

Please submit news items to [tower@zlc-aa.org](mailto: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

### Living Unaware of Our Vast Fortune

Dear Saints of Zion,

The last few months have flown by; today as I write this note, it's day 74. I've been declaring how many days I've been leading at Zion. There is something intentional about accounting for time. By the middle of May I will mark my first 100 days. I hope these days at Zion have been purposeful. Too often opportunities slip by and we have little to show for the time that has past.

Time matters. That is why God entered into our time-counting world. This month, we will be taking time to remember our mothers. And taking time to celebrate the affirmation of baptism with the rite of confirmation with 18 of our youth. We will also take time to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There will be time to remember those who have died serving in our country's Armed Forces on Memorial Day. The leaders of Zion will be taking time in May, to remember how deep, how wide, and how broad are the gifts God has showered upon this congregation and each of our lives. Please take time to pray for God's powerful Spirit to lead and guide our direction for living into our vision.

I'm reminded of how easy it is to be unaware of the treasures God has provided us, in the life story of Ira Yates. During the Depression, Mr. Ira Yates lived on a ranch in West Texas. He had a lot of land, and a lot of debt. Mr. Yates wasn't able to make enough with his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family (like many others) had to live on a government subsidy. Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would pay his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told him there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease contract. At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, 30 years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land he had received the oil and mineral rights. Yet, he'd been living on relief. A multimillionaire living in poverty. The problem? He didn't know the oil was there even though he owned it.

It is fair to say that you and I are a lot like Mr. Yates at times. We are heirs of a vast treasure and yet we live in spiritual poverty. We are entitled to the gifts and energizing power of the Holy Spirit and yet we live unaware of our birthright. We gather on Pentecost to remember how rich we are. I will be taking time to remember—will you join me? Jesus asks *"Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?"* (Mark 8:18)

## Calendar Notes

### Reminders

- Sat May 2—Leadership Retreat, Weber Center
- Sat May 9—Christine Carlsen & Larry Sharley Wedding (5PM)
- Sun May 10—Mother's Day
- Sun May 17—Photo Opportunity for Online Directory (10:30-12:30)
- Sun May 24—Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday (11AM Service)
- Mon May 25—Memorial Day, office closed
- Fri May 29—Office closed at noon (every Friday through Labor Day)
- Sun May 31—Summer Sunday Service Schedule Begins

### Summer Service Schedule

- Sundays (beginning May 31)
  - 8:30AM—Outdoor Worship/Parking Lot
  - 9:30AM—Blended Worship/Sanctuary
  - 11AM—Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- Tuesdays (beginning June 9)
  - 7:30PM—TBD
- Wednesdays
  - 10AM—Chapel

# Congregation Council

## March 17, 2015—Highlights

### *Financial Report Summary*

- **Cash:** Available cash at the end of February was \$65,907. Cash in operations account as of 3/13/2015 is approximately \$67,000; we have sufficient cash to last until late summer/early fall at which point we will start to fall short without a disbursement from the Endowment fund.
- **Income:** In February, contributions were \$59,940, which was \$4941 more than projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$53,339 in February last year.
- **Expenses:** Overall we were \$1,493 below budget for the month. Snow removal was a large expense in February (\$6901). Year to date, we have spent \$13,507 for snow removal.
- **Building Fund:** Contributions to "Down with the Debt" were \$2,135.38 by 15 givers in February. The minimum principal payment for March was \$2,387.71; we are paying the full amount received in February contributions plus the minimum principal payment from the Operations fund. We owe Thrivent \$97,142 as of the end of February.
- **Attendance:** Year to date, 3,099 compared to 2,653 last year at this time (both numbers include Bibleland).

### *Updates from Pastor Jim*

- **Overall:** Pastor Jim continues to attend myriad church-related meetings. This is part of start-up and getting his feet on the ground, getting to know people and issues.
- **Music:** Amy Studt has signed a contract to be our interim organist and lead the Zion Singers until the end of May. Lynne Smith, a choir member, has agreed to lead the choir, and Allen Warton, a bell choir member, has agreed to lead the bell choir. Both refused compensation.
- **Thoughts on Council:** Pr. Jim proposes we have a one-hour business meeting and a two-hour meeting for visioning. This second meeting could include other core ministries. Depending on purpose/topic, meetings could be held virtually, e.g., via Skype or conference call. Margie suggested using the executive committee for decision-making as needed.
- **Staffing:** Pr. Jim wants to consider what we need in terms of staff. We have an opportunity to think creatively about this with several current openings.

### *Using Email for Council Decisions*

We discussed the guidelines for using email for council issues. Margie will draft guidelines that would be part of

orientation for new Council members, based some or all of the following points Council members made:

Does it involve personnel? Is it informational only – e.g., a summary report of something that happened? Does tone matter for this issue? Would you mind if everyone in the congregation saw it? Has the issue already been discussed at a Council meeting? Are we applying an already-established policy or is it new in some way? Is it time sensitive? Would delay bring a negative result? Is it "high stakes," i.e., an issue that people will have strong feelings about?

### *Green Burial*

Laura received a copy of a letter from the newly-formed Ann Arbor Green Burial Network. This goal of the network is to "educate ourselves and others about natural burial, with the goal of increasing natural burial options in our local area." The main point of bringing it up at Council was education. Council agreed that Laura will talk to Bryan Weinert about ways to share the information.

### *Leadership Retreat*

A retreat will be held on May 2 at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI and will include members of the Visioning Committee, Council, and Core ministry leaders. There will be a notice in the Tower inviting other interested members to attend. It will start with worship at 8:30AM. Margie, Bob T., and Diane will be creating an agenda around the vision, and what we need to do to accomplish it.

### *SE MI Synod Assembly*

This assembly will take place May 15 and 16, in Farmington Hills, MI. Zion is allowed 3 voting delegates from the congregation. Diane and Marcus Hunt are interested, along with Sue Walters. Other who are invited include all rostered leaders, seminary students, youth members, and persons of color. Margie will go to the assembly but as she is a Synod Council member, her attendance doesn't count against Zion's number of delegates. (Pr. Jim also doesn't count against Zion's number of delegates since he's a pastor). Margie will send an invitation to the elected leaders. If we have others who are interested in attending, they can go as visitors.

### *Updates*

**Final Report from the Call Team** The Call Team interviewed Pr. Jim and Barbara about what worked well in the call process, what could have worked better. Call Team asked the same questions of themselves; they are now writing a report about the process that will go to both Zion and to the Synod.

**Dispute Resolution Center** They will run a restorative circle within the next four weeks. They will do it twice: once to see who will come, and a second once word spreads.

## Worship Core Ministry

### May Lectionary

- May 3** Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8  
**May 10** Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17  
**May 17** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19  
**May 24** Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15  
**May 31** Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

### Terrific Tuesday Summer Worship Services

This summer Zion will have a new worship opportunity on Tuesday evenings at 7:30PM. This Tuesday evening service is intended for everyone, including families with their children that desire to worship other than a Sunday morning. It will be brief most of the time, not to exceed 40 minutes. Music of some kind, scripture readings, sermon and Holy Communion will always be included. We hope to experiment with the format that might include some Christian music videos and, weather permitting, worshipping outside. Once or twice we would like to try a dinner church format. A schedule will be available in mid-May that will give structure to what is happening this summer and where we will meet. If you are away on weekends (and we know that many of you do go away), then this is your chance to be fed with Word and Sacrament, so that you can be strengthened in faith, hope and love. The first Terrific Tuesday will be June 9 at 7:30PM. Come comfortably dressed and bring a friend. Hope to see you there! Remember also that chapel is every Wednesday at 10AM.

### 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 7:30PM 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 May date is Friday, May 15 (note the date change). We travel to Chelsea Retirement Community. Our theme is Springtime and Fun with Friends. We will especially remember Memorial Day and sing some patriotic songs. We hope you will come out and join us! For more information contact Amy Studt ([amystudt1@gmail.com](mailto:amystudt1@gmail.com)).

### Summer Worship Special Music Opportunities

Beginning in June, Zion invites members of any age to offer their musical talent during any of the worship services. If you are available and interested please contact Zion's interim organist Amy Studt ([amystudt1@gmail.com](mailto:amystudt1@gmail.com)) this month. We hope to have our summer worship filled with a variety of music.

## Member Caring Core Ministry

### 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, 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

Thursday, May 7 at 6:30PM

Lena

226 South Main St

Look for the table with the Zion sign.

### New Fellowship Group!

Calling all fun-loving 40- and 50-year-olds - singles and married couples. Zion has groups for our youth, TNT for our 20s and 30s members, and Young Energetic Senior groups, but what about us middle aged folks with older children and those who are recent empty nesters? We are starting a new fellowship group for anyone in their 40s and 50s (or thereabouts) that want to socialize and have some fun. If interested, please email Joanne Dence at [joannedence74@gmail.com](mailto:joannedence74@gmail.com) and provide your email address and phone number. We will be planning our first get together some time in May. Stay tuned!

RSVPs, ?s, Get on our mailing list— email [tntziona2@gmail.com](mailto:tntziona2@gmail.com).

# Young Discipleship Core Ministry

## National Youth Gathering Update

Our group of 27 youth & adults from Zion and Christmas Lutheran in Bethlehem are excited as we prepare to **RISE UP** in Detroit this July! We can still use your help with a few things:



- **Paint It Forward:** we're collecting paint to use for our service projects in Detroit. Cans with just a little bit of paint left in them can be used. Please bring them to Zion during office hours and we'll store in our garage.
- **Diapering of Detroit:** one of Zion's women's groups is collecting children's diapers to send to social service agencies in Detroit. Please bring to the Welcome Center.
- **Electronics Recycling:** we're collecting used cell phones, MP3 music players (iPods), tablets/iPads, and laptops that no longer work, and/or are no longer being used. We'll recycle them, and earn \$3 per device! Please bring to the youth room.
- **Can Drive:** bring deposit cans & bottles, in plastic bags, to the youth room. We'll return them & use the deposit money to fund our transportation costs for the event!
- **Donations:** we still have \$1000 to raise towards the costs of food, activities, scholarships, and transportation. Please consider making a donation via check made out to "Zion Lutheran Church" with "NYG" in the memo line.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We can't wait to represent Zion with 40,000 of our closest friends!

## Confirmation 2015



Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015 will be a special worship at 11AM to welcome and honor our 18 youth who are ready to affirm their baptism.

Please join us at worship that day to welcome them, and plan to spend some time in the Welcome Center that day to learn more about each of our Confirmands.

## Created by God

Each year, Zion hosts a workshop for parents and youth to talk about our God-given bodies and sexuality. This year, our Created by God workshop for 5th – 6th grade youth and their parents will be Sunday May 3 from 9:30 – 10:45. Volunteer trained leaders work with Kelly Nieman Anderson, Director of Young Discipleship, to lead our youth and their parents in this important conversation.

## It is Time to Plan for Vacation Bible School at Zion!

At this year's VBS, we will embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. We will try to anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges.

**Dates: June 15 – 19**

**Time: 9 AM to NOON**

**Cost: \$25 per child**

**Age to Participate: 3 years old through entering 5th Grade**

**Registration forms can be found at [www.zlc-aa.org/vbs](http://www.zlc-aa.org/vbs)**



Here is what you can do:

- Sign up your friends, neighbors, and family for this year's VBS! Cost is \$25 per child. All children ages 3 years old through entering 5th grade are invited to attend.
- Donate materials. Each year, we feed over 150 participants and volunteers and do some really fun crafts and activities that take your generous donations. A donation board is set up in the Welcome Center. Take a tag, and bring donations back to church!
- Donate your time. We usually have over 60 volunteers that make VBS such a success. Talk to the VBS coordinator Sarah Wentzloff in the Welcome Center between services, or send her an email ([sarahwentzloff@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahwentzloff@yahoo.com)) to see how you can participate!

# God at Work in People's Lives

## Finding Joy in the Journey

Upward Washtenaw County Michigan is a Christian-based basketball league operating from Jan-Mar each year for kids from K-8. There are a handful of Zion members who either play, coach, ref or simply help. The following is a story about Joy from this year's Upward season.

After starting the season 0-4 and losing to the same team 4 times, our Knights girls were discouraged and not believing in themselves. As coaches, especially during our devotion break at practice, we tried to tie our weekly virtues (Joy and Initiative) back to our experiences on the court. So, while the girls struggled to find joy in losing on the court at least they were challenged to understand the difference between Joy and Happiness and tried to force themselves to find the Joy. As for Initiative, we challenged them to take initiative and study the game on their own time and practice the game on their own time.

We lost our 5th game to a travel team pretty badly. In fact, we lost our next 4 games to the Travel Teams, all by 20+ points. So, after game 6, we turned their focus to the end-of-season Upward tournament. The tourney would be a best of 3 series vs the other Upward team, the Terrapins. We refocused our efforts on initiative, and some of the girls actually did some extra things outside of practice. We concluded the regular season at 0-8. The other Upward team was 4-4, all 4 of their wins at our expense. It's pretty hard to motivate 12-13 year old girls when they've been destroyed on the court by their competitors, even after praying week in and week out for better results. Nonetheless, we kept trying, always recognizing the reality of our record but focusing the girls on basics and making practice more fun/competitive. This was a realization from a Zion member boys team coach with whom we shared the practice gym, who suggested we run some simple/fun/competitive drills, and invited our girls to mix-in and scrimmage with his 7/8th grade boys team, who ended their Upward season at 7-1.

Our girls saw the game from a different perspective after that. The scrimmage with the boys showed how quick the boys were and what an advantage quickness offered. We had begun practicing drills the stressed quickness, and we stopped practicing "scripted plays" and focused completely on shooting and quick decision making. The girls found the practices fun, and even though the games weren't going well, they were playing better, making better decisions, they were quicker and playing more as a team, stepping up on defense when a team member got beat. So, we coaches continued to drive that positive message home with them and their parents at each of our post-game team awards meetings. The girls found our messaging "unconvincing" at best since they were fresh off another loss. But, we stayed the course, focused on playing better and preparing for our Upward sisters in the Tournament.

In the final week of practice, we started by having some warm up drills, then took the girls off-court for a team meeting. We had each of them read quotes (coaches chose the quotes) about perseverance, winning, losing, practicing, purpose and not giving up. We reflected on those with one another and pointed out that they hadn't played their last game yet. We had also tied in that Abraham and Sarah didn't get what they were working for until many years later, and what we really were aiming for were our own set of "Twins" (2 wins). Then, we showed them the game plan—a simple, easy-to-digest written plan that put together all the elements we had focused on over the last few weeks of practice. We asked them to take Initiative and study it over the days before the game.

Tournament Day came with our first game at 12:30. Our game plan focused on a box-and-one defense against the Terrapins' best player/scorer (she regularly put in 8-10 against us in each of those first 4 games). She got a score on our first possession by stealing it at the top of the key and cruising in for an easy layup. After that, she didn't score a point the rest of the way! Our Knights executed the game plan defensively and on offense, made the shots we had switched to practicing for the last few weeks. Our girls went out and they won that first game 20-15 (our highest score to date had been 11 pts). First victory of the season—one more for the Championship!

After a 5 minute break, the coaches calmed the Knights down and got them back into game mode. The Knights won the second game too (21-17), and walked away with a Championship. They believed! Not at first, when we hatched the idea after game 6, but by the time they started the tournament, they believed they could win. After winning the first game, they believed they could do it again. They believed that "Twins" were attainable. Same game plan, same effort, same result. Their second win of the season!

In the end, the Knights regular season record won't be remembered. But being the first Champions of the Upward Girls 7/8th Grade league, that's a story they can share again and again. They can share how they struggled to find Joy while losing on the court, how they were challenged and found opportunities to take Initiative, how their coaches and parents believed in them even when they didn't believe in themselves, and finally, how they went "All-In", asking God to give them their best performance, and how they found Joy in their journey, and experienced pure Happiness as they went out as Champions! It's a story I'm proud to share.

- Larry Groth

# Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

## Adult Class

*Making Sense of the Christian Faith.* Continuing through June 7, 9:30AM, Holtfreter Classroom A. David Lose would like us all to "do" theology, that is, "talk about God." Do we already do that in our heads as we're walking the dog or out with the kids? When our grandchildren ask what God looks like, how do we answer? Is there a right answer? A wrong answer? Are there good or bad questions? Lose would say "no." He takes concepts that fill volumes in the theology section of libraries and bookstores, and he simplifies them for his students and for us. He says that we too can "do" theology; we can talk about God as we see God through Bible study (stories and confessions of folks like us over the centuries), our own experience, church tradition, and human reason. He invites us to doubt, to question, to read and share thoughts with others. The topics we will cover are what he has called seven central parts of the Christian story. These include God; creation; sin; covenant, law and community; incarnation; atonement; church and Holy Spirit; and eschatology (big word meaning the end of all things). Christianity at a basic level tries to make sense of just about everything -- where things came from, what meaning and purpose we have, where things are going. We'll be guided by a variety of teachers.

## The Wide Spectrum of Mothering

- To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you.
- To those who lost a child this year—we mourn with you.
- To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—we appreciate you.
- To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.
- To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears and disappointment—we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.
- To those who are foster moms, mentor moms and spiritual moms—we need you.
- To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—we celebrate with you.
- To those who have disappointment, heartache and distance with your children—we sit with you.
- To those who lost their mothers this year—we grieve with you.
- To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—we acknowledge your experience.
- To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests and the overall testing of motherhood—we are better for having you in our midst.
- To those who have aborted children—we remember them and you on this day.
- To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children—we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.
- To those who step-parent—we walk with you on these complex paths.
- To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be—we grieve with you.
- To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—we grieve and rejoice with you.
- To those who placed children up for adoption—we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart.
- And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

- by Amy Young (<http://messymiddle.com>)

# Adult Discipleship Core Ministry (cont.)

## COMMUNITY GROUPS—SPRING 2015

Listed below are existing and new Community Groups. Please contact the church office 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	fourth 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

## Youthworks—Detroit

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

Mission Core Ministry has been involved with YouthWorks-Detroit for many years. Our committee was introduced to YouthWorks-Detroit through Berna and Mike Brooks. Berna writes:

*Our son Curtis Street joined the Christian ecumenical group University Christian Outreach while attending the U of M, where he and Josh Rock (the present Director of YouthWorks-Detroit) became friends. After Curt's graduating U of M, he served in AmeriCorp on the Westside of Detroit at YouthWorks-Detroit, an extended branch of University Christian Outreach. Josh was also lead to Detroit as he and Curt worked there together. After Curt's 3 years of service in AmeriCorp he continued on staff at Youthworks as their Summer Street Team and youth activities coordinator. For the last 14+ years, we have faithfully continued to support YouthWorks and their efforts to share and further the Word of God, the Love of Jesus Christ and YouthWorks' diligent effort to serve Jesus Christ in the inner City of Detroit.*

*Josh provides additional information:*

"If you're not sure if Jesus is what God has for you, why don't you ask him?" It was these words, asked by a dear and trusted friend, which led me to say the first real prayer of my life.

"OK, God. If Jesus is what you want for me, show me." One minute later, the sky overhead began to glow with waving pink and green curtains of light. The Northern Lights were in full display above me, and I gave my life to Jesus.

Over the next two years, God built a solid foundation in my life, giving me deep and abiding relationships, community, and a clear invitation to follow Jesus. Through answering that invitation, God opened another door for me. I received a call to follow Jesus through serving with YouthWorks-Detroit's Summer Outreach internship program, where other believers and I lived a common life of prayer and service while sharing the Good News in an environment of great need in Detroit. Obeying this call helped set my current path in life: husband, father, teacher and missionary, raising my family and living with God's people in Detroit – and still a radical follower of Jesus.

YouthWorks-Detroit was founded in 1995 by two middle school teachers working in Detroit. At school, they noticed a major deficiency in their student's lives was a lack of committed relationships. From fathers and family to random changes in teachers, neighborhoods, and schools, their students repeatedly experienced foundational relationships abandoning them. YouthWorks-Detroit was founded in part to help redeem this void in the lives of Detroit youth.

My story of encountering God through YouthWorks-Detroit is not unusual. Over twenty years, we have focused on relationships and discipleship, valuing the process of living with and serving God's children in Detroit. Many young people like myself came to the city of Detroit to serve, and discovered God was already at work before they arrived, and that they were blessed to a measure far outweighing what they were able to give. Nearly 400 young people have come to serve in our summer or year-long internship programs over twenty years, each encountering the transforming power of God's love.

As we look back over 20 years, and look forward to continued service in our city, we are grateful to be in the place God has called us: to be joined to his kingdom as servants and witnesses to his abundant love and glory.



## Haiti Mission Travelers - Return from Successful Trip

Zion's 2015 Haiti Mission team has returned from a successful trip. Team members included Mari & Eric Veenstra, Tom & Jacob & Matthew Single, Katie Abraham, Marissa Brazeau, Allen Borton, Emily & Mark Gunderson. They were able to spend Easter Sunday worship with our mission partners Mary Jane and Andris Jolibois, co-directors for Living Hope Ministries - Haiti. Activities during the week included: Jacob Single's Eagle Scout project that replaced a torn tarp roof with a wood frame and tin panel roof on the 2nd

grade classroom (see picture at right); taking pictures and measurements of all the students for the Sponsorship Program; craft projects with multiple classrooms and the women's group; installing some shelving in the Guest House; and, a very enjoyable day-long field trip across the mountains to the "resort" city of Jacmel, where we swam in the ocean and enjoyed fresh fish meals. We hope to share more of our experiences and a slideshow during a Sunday service in the future. If you are interested in joining a Haiti mission team in the future, we hope to go again in 2016. Please contact Mark Gunderson if you are interested in traveling to Haiti or sponsoring a Living Hope student ([MLGondo@comcast.net](mailto:MLGondo@comcast.net) or 734-996-2435).



## Mission Core Ministry (cont.)

### Opportunities to Donate

No Empty Hands—This month the non-perishable foods will be going to the Salvation Army. In June, we will be giving to Hope Clinic and Emmanuel Lutheran Church. As you are doing your Spring cleaning, Emmanuel Lutheran Church runs a clothes closet for women and men's clothing. Please call Patty (secretary) at 482-7121 to make arrangements to drop off the clothing. If you have any questions, please call Zoe Behnke at 663-1664.

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); gift cards (Walmart, Visa, Kroger, Meijer, cell phone minutes etc.). These items are always needed, since teens "age out" every month.

Blavin Scholars—We will once again be putting together welcome baskets and sick-day packages for those foster teens who are going to college. They are in need of the following items: laundry baskets/collapsible hampers, laundry detergent/Tide pods, Clorox wipes, bath towels and hand towels, umbrellas, notebooks and pens, snacks, Febreze, hangers, plastic dishes/cups, soft tissues, chicken noodle soup, cold medicine, cough drops, hand sanitizer, Vapo rub, Nyquil, packaged snacks, Advil, Tylenol, hot/ice pad or packs, Gatorade/Sprite/7-Up/ginger ale/apple juice, small baskets/plastic tubs to deliver a set of supplies to a sick student. We are trying to get a couple of complete baskets before June for students moving in early.

All of these items can be brought to the Welcome Center (the basket near the Sanctuary entrance) or the church office.

### Faith & Food Garden Seeks Volunteers

Zion's Faith & Food Garden is ready to launch its 4th year of operations this month. Organic produce is grown in our 50' x 50' raised bed garden and then distributed to people in need in our community. If you are interested in volunteering for a week of garden support this spring/summer, please contact Bryan Weinert ([bryancweinert@gmail.com](mailto:bryancweinert@gmail.com)). We are also looking for gardeners from Zion who are willing to donate some percentage of the produce from their personal garden to the Faith & Food program.

### ZEN Zone

Zion Earth Network (ZEN) is a new initiative being created at Zion to give our members (young and old) an opportunity to take positive environmental action at the church, to build general awareness on environmental issues and to empower all of us to become more responsible disciples (and citizens) in care for the Earth. Issues and initiatives will be identified by the team, along with frequency of meetings. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bryan Weinert at [bryancweinert@gmail.com](mailto:bryancweinert@gmail.com).

## Announcements

*Christine Carlsen  
and  
Larry Sharley*

*invite you to share their joy  
when they exchange marriage vows  
and begin their new life together.*

*Saturday, the ninth of May  
Two thousand fifteen,  
at 5:00 in the afternoon  
Zion Lutheran Church.*

*We would love to have your presence at the service. While only our family and close friends will join us for a reception, we are inviting everyone from both Zion and Westside Methodist to witness and participate in the service as we become husband and wife.*

Sales of SERRV handcrafts have been a cherished part of Zion's ministry for many years. Our purchases of these finely made articles have enabled hundreds of artisans throughout the world to provide livelihood for their families. After forty-some years, I am stepping down from my responsibilities as Zion's SERRV coordinator. I know that my successor will discover the many pleasures of "doing" SERRV-- handling beautiful objects, experiencing other cultures, sharing enthusiasm with fellow volunteers, and knowing that it is a worthy cause in which you are engaged. Whether you have just a smidgen of interest or whether you are strongly drawn to the possibility that leading SERRV is exactly what you are called to do, please contact me for details and with questions.—Dorothy Bauer (663-0362, [Doto.bauer@gmail.com](mailto:Doto.bauer@gmail.com))

## Synod / LSSM News

### Wayne County Family Center

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan provides a homeless shelter in the Wayne County Family Center in Westland, Michigan. It is heavily used, especially in cold weather, and lots of basic items are needed including bath towels, washcloths, pillows, bed sheets (twin size), laundry detergent, and snacks (e.g., graham crackers, pretzels, etc.). These items are needed on a regular basis because current residents move out and new residents move in. You can help by donating any of these items (please make them new and unopened, just the way you would like to get them), or by making a cash gift. Please contact Tamieka Andrews, Wayne County Family Center Director at (734) 721-0590 for more information.

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.

### A Celebration of Ministry

Join Living Water Ministries at Michi-Lu-Ca for a special day of memories, stories, and worship as we celebrate the life-giving programs that have touched thousands of lives and changed the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

May 2nd, 2015 • 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

at Michi-Lu-Ca (located at 3506 Garling Rd, Fairview, MI 48621)

(appetizers provided)

[www.elcalivingwater.com](http://www.elcalivingwater.com) • [office@elcalivingwater.com](mailto:office@elcalivingwater.com) • 231-861-4138

### Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are all Lutheran women. You don't have to belong to a circle or pay any dues. Ways to get involved:

- Join other Lutheran women collecting diapers for the National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July (*see page 4 for further information; see also the March Tower for more background*).
- Check out Café ([www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org)), WELCA's online magazine for and about young adult Lutheran women.
- Join the Third Thursday Bible Study (third Thursday every month at 1PM in Stellhorn, using Always Being Made New format written by women from the church at large).
- Take advantage of programs offered by other clusters of Lutheran women.

For more information, please contact Lois Schlachter at 734-665-8297 or [loisschlacte@yahoo.com](mailto:loisschlacte@yahoo.com).

### Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly—May 15 -16, 2015

This year's Synod Assembly is May 16 at St. John/Farmington Hills. All Synod Assembly information and forms are updated and available online at [www.semisynod.com](http://www.semisynod.com).

The Global Mission Festival starts at 1PM on Friday, May 15. Synod Assembly Voting Members are automatically registered. For those who are not attending the Synod Assembly, you can register separately for the Mission Festival. Registrations are \$25 per person and includes dinner Friday evening. The Global Mission team will also provide a wonderful worship service for all.

# MAY CALENDAR

## Friday, May 1

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

## Saturday, May 2

## Sunday, May 3

- 8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
- 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 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 Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Korea Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
- 12:15 PM Catechism/Gathering & Youth Room

## Monday, May 4

- 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, May 5

- 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 6:30 PM Roundtable Meeting/The Gathering
- 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, May 6

- 10:00 AM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
- 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
- 6:00 PM Walters' Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
- 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Adult Discipleship Meeting/Omega Room
- 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
- 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

## Thursday, May 7

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Friday, May 8

- 10:00 AM Christine's Wedding Prep/Hall & Kitchen
- 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 5:00 PM Carlsen Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Saturday, May 9

- 5:00 PM Carlsen Wedding/Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM Carlsen Reception/Hall & Kitchen

## Sunday, May 10

- 8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 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 Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

## Monday, May 11

- 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 Kesler Small Group/Alpha Room
- 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

## Tuesday, May 12

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

## Wednesday, May 13

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

## Thursday, May 14

- 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
- 4:00 PM Compassion Comm. Workshop/Creation Station & Gathering
- 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Pastor's Office
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Friday, May 15

- 8:00 AM Compassion Comm. Workshop/Creation Station & Gathering
- 12:15 PM Zion Singers/Music Room #1
- 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 5:00 PM Osborne/Doutre Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Saturday, May 16

- 8:00 AM Compassionate Comm. Workshop/Creation & Gathering
- 2:00 PM Osborne/Doutre Wedding/Sanctuary

## Sunday, May 17

- 8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor (last class for the season)
- 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
- 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
- 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
- 12:15 PM Catechism Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

## Monday, May 18

- 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, May 19

- 10:00 AM Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
- 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Wednesday, May 20

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

## Thursday, May 21

- 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
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Friday, May 22

- 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

## Sunday, May 24 Confirmation Sunday

- 8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
- 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

## Monday, May 25 Memorial Day Office Closed

## Tuesday, May 26

- 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry Meeting/Pastor's Office
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Wednesday, May 27

- 10:00 AM Prayer Time, Yeager Chapel
- 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
- 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
- 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting/Piper Hall

## Thursday, May 28

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Stellhorn Lounge
- 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

## Friday, May 29

- 12:00 PM Office closed
- 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

## Saturday, May 30

- 10:00 AM Women of ELCA Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge

## Sunday, May 31

- 8:30 AM Outdoor Worship/Parking Lot
- 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Adult Discipleship/Holtfreter Room C
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
- 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

# The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church  
1501 West Liberty  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Date Sensitive Material  
Please Deliver by  
May 1, 2015

## April Life Passages at Zion

**BAPTISMS:** Michael Philip Bush, parents Dean and Katie Bush

**WEDDINGS:**

**FUNERALS:**

**NEW MEMBERS:**

## Elected Ministry Leaders

### Congregation Council

President: Margie Reynolds ([margiereynolds@comcast.net](mailto:margiereynolds@comcast.net))  
Vice-Pres: Lorin Cartwright ([cartwrl@gmail.com](mailto:cartwrl@gmail.com))  
Secretary: Laura Berry ([berry.laura@gmail.com](mailto:berry.laura@gmail.com))  
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand ([bobbertrand@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbertrand@yahoo.com))  
At Large: Christine Karshin ([ckarshin@emich.edu](mailto:ckarshin@emich.edu))  
Nick Kogleman ([nkogelman@gmail.com](mailto:nkogelman@gmail.com))  
Vickie Matthews ([vickiematthews@comcast.net](mailto:vickiematthews@comcast.net))  
Connie McComb ([cmccomb0822@comcast.net](mailto:cmccomb0822@comcast.net))  
Mark Warwashana ([whellieman@gmail.com](mailto:whellieman@gmail.com))  
Bob Thompson ([mutant@umich.edu](mailto:mutant@umich.edu))

### Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart, Holli Bertram  
Welcome: Chris Karpinnen, Joanne Dence  
Adult Discipleship: Sonja Page, Felicia Leipzig  
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya  
Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach  
Missions: Mark Gunderson, Layle Weinert

### Support Ministries

Personnel: Tim Damschroder, Dave Werner  
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	<i>Vacant</i>
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	Kelly Nieman-Anderson
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
Director of Music	<i>Vacant</i>
Organist	Amy Studt, <i>Interim</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](http://www.zlc-aa.org).

Office phone 994-4455