

# The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

**June 2016**

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.



## What's Happening at Zion

### New Council Members

When the congregation met in our annual meeting in February we elected many Council, Core Ministry and Support Ministry Leaders. Two positions on Council had no nominations (President and Council Member-at-Large) when the meeting adjourned. Council accepted the write-in nominations for further review and spoke with those who had the most nominations. Dan McConnell accepted the nomination of Council President and Sharon VanRiper accepted the nomination of Council Member at Large. Both were appointed by Council to those positions until the next annual meeting, at which they will be voted upon by the congregation. We thank them for accepting their call to serve God and Zion at this time in this way.

### Wedding Coordinator

Zion is seeking a congregation member to serve as the **Wedding Coordinator** for weddings held in our church or on church grounds. The person serving in this position is responsible for working with couples planning to be married at Zion and coordinating all aspects of the wedding and the wedding ceremony as they might relate to the church. Included in this position is the responsibility of working with the pastor and the couple to be married in planning the church wedding ceremony, coordination of the wedding participants on the day of the wedding, and providing ceremony management the day of the wedding.

Applicants for this position should have knowledge of Christian wedding practices and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America traditions concerning weddings, have a genuine passion for working with couples in the planning of this major life event, and be willing to work in a sometimes stressful event planning environment. The successful candidate will be able to work under a flexible evening, weekend, summer and holiday schedule.

This is a part-time occasional position serving as is necessary. Salary for the position is set by ZLC policy and is paid by the couple being married. While the Wedding Coordinator is serving on behalf of ZLC, the wedding coordinator is not a regular employee of the church. The desired candidate will have wedding planning experience. To apply, please send your cover letter, resume' and any other information that supports your application to Pastor James Debner at [jdebner@zlc-aa.org](mailto:jdebner@zlc-aa.org) or, Pastor James Debner, 1501 West Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Candidates wishing to review a job description for this position or learn more about Zion Lutheran Church are encouraged to visit the church web site: [www.zlc-aa.org/jobs](http://www.zlc-aa.org/jobs).

### Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

We have added a ninth member to the committee. Dan McConnell is now an ex officio member in his new role as Council President. Margie Reynolds has joined as a full member since her term as president has concluded.

The call committee submitted our draft of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to Council for approval, and it was approved in mid-May. We also received help from the IT support ministry in using a webcam and flat-screen TV monitor for our upcoming Skype interviews with candidates. We expect to be receiving candidate profiles in June from Pr. Heather Holland, assistant to the bishop in the Southeast Michigan (SEMI) synod office.

While we know that God will lead us to the right person for Zion, we don't yet know when that process will conclude. We're grateful for your continued prayers and support.

### Zion's Prayer Chain

Each week Diane Rinehart collects prayer requests that are written on the prayer cards, called or emailed to the church. If requested, these are then placed on the Prayer Chain, a list that is emailed out to members of our church community that have a heart for prayer. A hard copy is available in the church office and also taped to the inside of the door of the prayer room.

A prayer chain builds community as we lift up the joys and concerns of others. It builds us and binds us together in love for each other. It is one of the most important parts of our community.

If you would like to become part of the prayer chain and receive this weekly mailing, pleased contact Diane (994-4455).

## Worship Core Ministry

### Summer Special Music

We are in need of musicians to provide special music for our summer worship services. If you are interested in sharing your music, please contact Natalie Downs ([ndowns@zlc-aa.org](mailto:ndowns@zlc-aa.org)).

### Celebrate Music at Zion Concert

On Saturday, June 4th at 2PM in the Sanctuary, we will have a concert celebrating our musicians and the music ministry here at Zion! Come enjoy music by the Chancel Choir, The Rings of the Lord, Zion Singers, and Praise Band along with music by other Zion musicians. The concert is open to the public, so invite family and friends to join in the celebration!

### Thanksgiving at the Retirement of a Debt

On June 5, the Finance Committee will lead a liturgy of thanksgiving for Zion's retirement of our multimillion dollar mortgage that was paid off in May [see related article, page 8]. This will take place at the end of each worship service and an ice cream celebration will follow as we give thanks for God's gift and the faithfulness of the people of Zion.

### June Lectionary

**June 5** 1 Kings 17:17-24, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17  
**June 12** 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15, Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36-8:3  
**June 19** Isaiah 65:1-9, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39  
**June 26** 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

### Host Families Needed for The Young Swedish Singers

The Young Swedish Singers, a 34-member gospel singing group from Hassleholm, Skane, Sweden, will appear in concert at Zion on Thursday, June 30th at 7PM. The Young Swedish Singers' concert, sung mostly in English, will include gospel, hymns, and Swedish folk music. Free-will offerings from the singers tour will benefit Shepherd's Canyon Retreat ([www.shepherds-canyonretreat.org](http://www.shepherds-canyonretreat.org)), a non-profit ministry providing counseling retreats for clergy and their spouses.

We are in need of host families for the Swedish choir members! Host families will provide overnight housing (usually 2 choir members per home) and return choir members to the bus the next morning (July 1st) with a sack lunch. If you are interested in serving as a host family, please contact Natalie Downs ([ndowns@zlc-aa.org](mailto:ndowns@zlc-aa.org)).

### Liberty Street Band Appreciation Sunday, June 12th

If time is money, the Liberty Street Band donates \$46,800 of their time each year.

A conservative payment for a musician is \$30 per service. Praise Band members attend one rehearsal on Wednesday nights, another rehearsal Sunday morning, and play during the Contemporary Service. That amounts to \$90 per musician per week. Add up four singers, three guitarists, a bassist, drummer, and a trumpet player and multiply by the 52 Sundays in one year, and you get that astonishing figure.

But even if we hired out the most talented, virtuosic musicians to come play for us every Sunday, they could not add to our community in the way that these musicians at Zion do. Every member of the Liberty Street Band demonstrates their love of Christ and their commitment to building the community of Zion as they worship together at the Contemporary Service.

I am personally eternally grateful and blessed to work with such wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. Please join me in thanking the Liberty Street Band Musicians with an outdoor potluck following 11AM worship on Sunday, June 12th.

Please bring a dish to share and join us in fellowship to thank these fabulous people!

- Alison Hendricks, Contemporary Worship Leader

## Thank You and Congratulations

Zion contributions for the Project Grow garden exceeded the fund raising goal of \$4000! Thank you to all who so generously contributed! We note that all surplus funds will be available to Zion's Food and Faith Garden to continue their ministry. - Bob Thompson

Congratulations to our 2016 high school grads Kyle Boxeth, Michael Brazeau, Natalie Delph, Kalli Dence, Jessica Dietsel, Emily Gunderson, Grant Katcher, Lauren Knight, Melissa Newman, Tyler Strickland, Rob Zofchak.

## From Pastor Jim

### Zion to Host a Pastoral Intern

There is exciting news to share in our Christian community. On August 1, 2016, Zion will begin a year-long relationship with Mrs. Vicky Lovell, who will be Zion's pastoral Intern from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Vicky will be working full time at Zion for twelve months as she becomes competent in the various skills of ministry practice (preaching, worship leading, teaching and pastoral care). I will be her supervisor for the year. Vicky is currently working at Shalom Lutheran Church in Pinckney, MI. She will commute from her home in Pinckney each day.

In Pastoral Internship, students take on the role of a Christian public leader, engage in the full range of ministry and professional experiences, hone knowledge and skills in proclaiming God's promise in a variety of ways, form new communities, and equip existing communities to love and serve their neighbors. As part of the Internship experience, students complete a major project that deepens learning of leadership skills. These projects may include key leadership areas such as administration, leadership, stewardship, conflict resolution, revitalization, or many others. It is a time to try new things and build a foundation of skills to flourish in public ministry.

Zion will need a Lay Internship Committee of about five to eight people, meeting monthly with the intern, who will develop a supportive relationship with the intern. You will learn, grow and struggle together as you help each other develop your unique ministry. This Support Committee's members are Supporters, Sponsors, Consultants, Evaluators, Faith Sharers and Ministry Partners.

Lay internship committees also participate in the evaluation process. It is the responsibility of the committee chair to submit an online evaluation form twice a year. However, the entire committee is expected to participate in the evaluation process by giving the chair their opinions in response to the evaluation questions. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, then please call / email the office and let Diane know of your interest before the end of June.

It is a privilege for Zion to participate in the training of pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together we will learn, grow and live into our discipleship as we follow Jesus. Next month Vicky will introduce herself as we prepare to welcome her in August. Keep Vicky and her family in prayer as she prepares to begin her pastoral internship.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS—SPRING 2016

*Listed below are existing Community Groups. Please contact the church office for more information on joining or starting a group.*

<u>Group make-up / focus / interest</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Location</u>
Open to all, service to the homeless	Kent Peterson	meet irregularly, serve the homeless often			
Women, generally over 50	Debbie Weber	Mondays	7:00PM	twice a month	in homes / at Zion
Open to all, ministry to military families	Laura Girbach	Sundays	5:00PM	every other week	in Girbach's home
Couples with teenagers (currently suspending regular meetings, but continuing with work on Foster Children projects)	Chris Gajar	Sundays	6:30PM	once a month	in homes / at Zion
18-29 year-olds without children	Roger Santini	Thursdays	6:00PM	weekly	Youth Room
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	Bel-Mark 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	at Zion
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

# Congregation Council

## April 19, 2016—Highlights

### *Financial Report Highlights*

Endowment Board is working on the first quarter installment. A bequest was received for \$11K. David put 10% as a tithe and is looking for Council to allow the remaining 90% to general operations. Council discussed that there's a policy in place to deal with bequests, and some percentage should go to B&G. Therefore, not all the \$9900 will go to general operations. Bob B. will locate the policy and Margie will communicate this to David Beck.

- Income: For the month of March contributions were \$82,157.55, which was \$298 less than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$80,882 in March last year. This March had four Sundays, one of which was Easter; last March had five Sundays and Easter fell in April. All in all, contributions were close to where we expected them to be. YTD, contributions are \$3,671 less than budgeted and \$515 more than YTD last year. We did not receive the Endowment income expected in the first quarter; it is expected soon.
- Expenses: Spending was \$10,139 under budget for the month, and \$41,272 under budget YTD.
- Building Fund (Down with the Debt): Contributions to the Down with the Debt fund were \$3,462.00 by 20 givers in March. The minimum principal payment for April was \$2,779.89. David has already cut the checks for April to make the additional principal payment for the full amount of \$3,462.00 received in March, plus the minimum principal payment from the Operations fund. They will be mailed on Monday after they have been signed. We owe Thrivent \$21,051.21 as of the end of March. We should be able to pay this off this year.
- Attendance and Offering

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Attendance (YTD) *	5,050	4,582
-Including Bibleland	5,877	5,741
Offering (YTD)	\$208,887	\$208,372
Offering per Person	\$41.36	\$45.48

\* Easter fell in March in 2016 and in April in 2015

### *Remaining Elected Positions*

- Council President: At its March 2016 meeting, Council appointed Dan McConnell to a member-at-large position from the names that had been written in on the ballot at the annual meeting. Since that time, Pr. Jim talked to Dan about whether he was willing to be Council president, and he is. In accordance with our revised constitution, Council appoints replacements for vacant positions (including all officers) by majority vote until the next annual meeting, at which time the congregation elects someone to fill out the remainder of the term. Bob T. nominated Dan to be president of

Council; Laura seconded it. Without further discussion, Council approved.

Council then discussed the process for how to nominate people at the time of the election (a process for write-in candidates), to guide the next election. We discussed that nominations from the floor would have to be accompanied by a bio, and the agreement from the person being nominated that he or she is in fact, willing to take the position. These guidelines will be presented to Zion members before and at the annual congregational meeting in 2017.

- Member-at-Large: Pastor Jim talked to two of the other write-in candidates; Sharon Van Riper is willing to serve as a member-at-large. Pr. Jim moved that Council appoint Sharon as a council member-at-large; Connie seconded the motion. Without further discussion, Council approved.
- Welcome Core Ministry: Karen Salamin is willing to serve as Welcome Core Ministry co-chair. Margie moved to appoint Karen to Welcome Core Ministry co-chair; Connie seconded the motion. Without further discussion, Council approved.
- IT Committee: Marcus Hunt is willing to serve on IT Committee. IT Committee is recommending that Marcus be appointed to the IT Committee and chair it. Bob T. moved that Marcus be appointed to the IT Committee as the Chair; Christine seconded the motion. Without further discussion, Council approved.

### *Call Committee*

Margie reported that we are finished with the site profile. Pr. Jim and the Call Committee are giving it a final review; and comments are to be submitted next Wednesday. Pastor Heather from the Synod is at Zion tonight, talking to the Call Committee about next steps. Once we submit the site profile, the committee will wait for applications.

### *Washtenaw Refugee Activities*

Margie reported that this group has been meeting with different congregations about how to place refugees within Washtenaw Co. They are planning for 1000 refugees, to arrive in the fall of 2016. By next meeting, the group will have some recommendations about what we are going to ask congregations to do [see related article, page 10].

### *Welcome Brochures*

Marc shared some welcome brochures from another church he visited as an example of what we could consider; we will send them to Welcome Core Ministry.

### *Project Grow*

Bob T. reported that Bryan met with Project Grow representatives this week; they staked out the area, which slopes down toward the retention area (we need to be 50 feet clear of the retention pond). They discussed the slope and Project Grow said it's not out of the ordinary. Also, Project Grow now believes that tilling will not be necessary. Project Grow is carefully monitoring expenses to

## Congregation Council (cont.)

prepare this area for gardening and may rebate some funds, given that the area was not deemed to require additional tilling. Any rebated funds will be used to offset costs for garden signage or for the Zion Faith and Food Garden. Beds will not be raised. Signs have been ordered and we should be able to pick them up shortly. Pr. Jim will send an email to Zion's neighborhood when all is ready, to give neighbors the first chance to rent plots.

### Security

Bob T. reported that cameras are recording and working right now in the IT room, and IT is working to get the video feed to specific computers (office and Chris's apartment). The system will be set so that if motion detectors are activated when it's supposed to be quiet, someone gets a text. We are also going to get motion-sensor lights for the hallways (even as an energy consumption measure, as well as for security). Card-key locks for the building would be down the road, when we have the funding. We didn't have money for it at the present.

### Pastor Jim's Updates

- Leadership Orientation: Will be held this coming Saturday April 23rd and next Saturday April 30th, 9:00 – 10:30. These will be duplicate sessions so it's necessary to attend only one. The orientation will include emergency preparation, as well as all the uses of the building, kitchen, van, etc. Orientation will note the highlights in the leadership notebook, and also cover how we can grow as leaders, and explore leadership roles.
- Meetings about Fall Schedule: Also on these two Saturdays, we will be discussing the fall schedule, from 10:30 to 2 pm. Members of Council including Pastor Jim, Worship Core Ministry, Adult Discipleship, Young Discipleship will meet together to discuss whether we want to change the fall schedule. The plan is to dream and vision together to prepare for the future; Pr. Jim does not have a pre-determined preferred option. For 20 years, we've taught youth that Sunday school is enough and worship isn't needed, and trained our adults that no education is needed. We need to find out if we want to continue this or do we want to change? The plan is to meet two Saturdays in a row to allow people who can only meet one of these two weekends to have voice.
- Leadership: Pr. Jim would like bios and pictures of all of our council members and our core ministry leaders, to facilitate communication within the church.
- Update on Intern: Pr. Jim is in the process of writing an application for Zion to be a site to host an intern; Pr. Jim will need to go to a training to learn how to host an intern. We will have a full time person, which will cost \$1600 a month (\$400/wk). We will not pay any housing, but we will cost-share with the synod in paying for mileage for her to travel here (we will contribute \$500 to the synod for travel for interns - 28 of

them are geographically bound and must find work near where they live). We need to form an internship committee to be a liaison. Her internship will start in August, and continue for a year. Pr. Jim moved that council authorize Zion to become an internship site and that Pr. Jim be trained to host an intern. Connie seconded the motion. Council discussed that there are no financial concerns with this proposal, as we are favorable with respect to the budget because of the communication position, adult discipleship position, and also associate pastor positions that have yet to be filled. We need only to be considering the period of time from August through December, as we will be creating a new budget for 2017 that will include the internship position. Without further discussion, Council approved [see related article, page 3].

- Developing and Caring for Leaders: Pastor Jim wants us to be fed and not drained. Being on Council should be a positive, rather than negative experience. Council discussed that we need to communicate the need for people to serve more thoroughly than we did; Dan noted he hadn't realized we were still looking for people to serve in leadership roles. Council also discussed the lack of willingness of most people to serve in a position.
  - Creating position descriptions for leadership positions would serve as a guide and help people determine whether or not they would be willing and able to serve.
  - We also need to use care in how we talk about doing God's work – it is a blessing to do.
  - Pr. Jim noted it's easy to be a casual observer rather than a committed disciple, and asked Council whether we would be able to give an elevator speech about our church and who we are as a congregation and invite others to be a part of it. We can start training on this – Council can be an incubator.
- Staffing Update: Alison Hendricks will likely be working as a music teacher full time this fall, so she will need to reduce her time here to about 12 hours per week instead of 19. We want to keep Alison, even at reduced hours.

*(Paul writes) <sup>11</sup> I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup> I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

*- Galatians 1: 11-12*

# Synod News

## Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly

The Southeast Michigan Synod meet in Assembly at Shalom Lutheran Church in Pinckney, May 13 and 14 with a little over 300 people attending. Zion's voting members were: Sonja Page, Dale Eckart, Dan McConnell and Pastor Jim. Margie Reynolds was a Synod Council Voting member and Bob Thompson and Roger Santini were visitors. Vera McEwen and Alison Hendricks were worship song leaders.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was present and shared about the ministries of the ELCA. We were reminded of the four strategic Statements of Emphasis in the ELCA:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran,
- We are church together, and
- We are church for the sake of the world.

In 2015, the 9300 congregations gave over \$1.8 billion to further the kingdom of God. This reflects the strength of Lutherans' resolve to make an impact on the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This giving is not all going to the ELCA but much of it is directed locally to communities in which congregations are located.

Bishop Eaton also spoke about *Called Forward Together in Christ*, a process to decide the future direction of the ELCA. We often try to be all things to all people, but the decline in mission support has forced a conversation on what does the church need to focus on. Bishop Eaton said, "When we look to the future, we want to be clear about who we are and what is most important. This is Christ's Church, not our church." She then asked three questions that we took time to discuss in small groups:

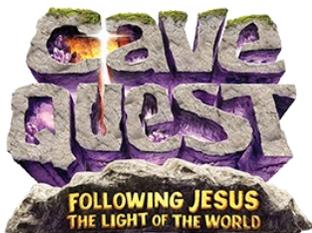
- What kind of church do we believe God is calling us to become?
- How do we become an inclusive and diverse church?
- If we had to decide that some things were more important than others in the next 5-10 years, what would your top three things be?

We heard a report from Flint about how Salem Lutheran Church is giving away water and water filters to their neighbors. They give away over 120,000 lbs. of water every week. Over \$200,000 has been raised to re-plumb Salem Lutheran church, so it can become a well for the community of Flint. We heard a report for the ELCA Youth Gathering-Rise up and how over 1 million diapers were donated and over \$90,000 for the ELCA was given to purchase more diapers.

Bishop Kreiss spoke about the Synod's new program called Rise Up. This program is multifaceted and hoped to raise over \$1.25 million over the next three years. The key goals are to strengthen lay and rostered leaders, help congregations to live out their mission in their communities and equip a new generation of stewards.

We heard two other key note speakers that spoke about being stewards and taking Sabbath rest. Resolutions were passed and elections were held. Margie Reynolds was elected to a three year term to the Synod Council.

## Young Discipleship Core Ministry



### VBS 2016

Vacation Bible School is  
June 20-24, 2016.

Registration is open!  
Paper registration available OR register online  
at

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/AAZionCaveQuest>

Contact VBS coordinator Jessica Rudy at [aazionvbs@gmail.com](mailto:aazionvbs@gmail.com) for more details.

*Family Night*  
*Thursday June 23rd*

*VBS Celebration Service*  
*Sunday June 26th*

### Upcoming Activities

**July 23—30** High School  
Mission Trip

# Samaritas News

## News from SAMARITAS

If you have been driving along I-94 lately, you have probably seen the big billboards that advertise SAMARITAS, the new name for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM). As we pointed out in the last issue of The Tower, this change of name is a huge step for LSSM and one that they expect will help them expand their mission of "...serving people as a expression of the love of Christ". So far, the response from congregations and the general public has been very positive, and Samaritas is looking forward to expanding its role as a major source of Christian support to people in need.

One of Samaritas' biggest efforts is in helping children and families, and this month is a special time for that because it is National Foster Care Month. Samaritas is Michigan's largest private foster care agency, helping more than 800 children throughout the Lower Peninsula find a place to call home, when their home no longer supports them. Some of these children are victims of abuse and neglect, and others have simply been abandoned by their birth families. They deserve the basic fundamentals of life, including a safe, clean and warm home, and the attention of a loving, nurturing adult.

This month, Samaritas is calling attention to the many families that have welcomed foster care children into their homes, and made a meaningful difference in their lives. Children in foster care are already under significant stress, and the chance to be part of a welcoming family means a great deal to them – and to the society that they will grow up to join.

Sadly, there are many, many more children in Michigan who need foster care help and attention, and many other opportunities to help our fellow citizens. You can find out more about volunteering for Samaritas at: [https://www.samaritas.org/docs/default-source/lssm-general/volunteer/volunteer\\_handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=8](https://www.samaritas.org/docs/default-source/lssm-general/volunteer/volunteer_handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=8), and if you want more information, you can contact Anna Romund at [aromu@Samaritas.org](mailto:aromu@Samaritas.org).

*<sup>26</sup> They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" <sup>29</sup> For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.*

*<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.*

*<sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.*

*<sup>34</sup> When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup> and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.*

*<sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. - Luke 8: 26-39*

## Stewardship & Finance News

### Zion's Thrivent Mortgage Paid Off!

I have news worthy of great celebration. Our mortgage with Thrivent Financial has been paid off! As of the end of April we owed Thrivent \$14,809. In April we received over \$8,400 to pay off our debt, and I made another large deposit on May 2 for an additional \$6,700. This came faster than I anticipated.. I called Thrivent at the beginning of May to get a pay-off letter and have mailed a check for the full amount.

First, let me provide a little history. When I started working at Zion in August 2008, the church was just finishing a major renovation of the building. The cost? Nearly \$8 million! The good news at the time was that through the generosity of its members, most of the renovation costs had been paid for during the construction phase. The thing that worried me as the new Finance Manager at Zion was that we still owed a lot of money... over \$3 million. Much of this money, almost \$1.25 million, was owed to members of Zion. The rest was owed to the bank and we needed to start making payments right away. Oh, and one more thing, the US economy was on the verge of the largest financial collapse since the Great Depression.

At the time, it seemed doubtful that we would ever see these loans paid off. But in the past eight years, some amazing blessings have occurred. We received incredibly generous gifts from members in the form of loan forgiveness. Of the member loans that were originally made, only \$205,000 remains, and almost all of this remainder has been promised to be forgiven. We have also received remarkable bequests, including an astounding gift from Mary Jane Haarer, which went a long way to paying off this mortgage. And not least, we have received faithful monthly contributions from so many members.

So what comes next? I expect I will be contacting many of you to ask you what you would like done with your excess contributions. One option is to send these funds to the Capital Projects Reserve. Our Building and Grounds Committee and Council have been working to explore the use of these funds and evaluate what needs to be done to make sure that our building continues to stand strong and serve God's purpose long into the future [see related article, page 9].

- David Beck, Finance Manager

*<sup>51</sup> As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.*

*<sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"<sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then he and his disciples went to another village.*

*<sup>57</sup> As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

*<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

- Luke 9: 51-62

# Building & Grounds News

## Facility Needs

As noted in the article on page 8, Zion's mortgage with Thrivent Financial was recently paid off. This is a fantastic accomplishment and Zion is grateful to all members who have faithfully given to the Church in order to reach this milestone.

Even though the mortgage has been paid off, there is still a need to keep the church facilities in good order. The Buildings & Grounds Committee is charged with maintaining the facilities at Zion and this continues to take significant financial support to keep the facility in good order. The Committee recently prepared a list of projects that need to be completed to keep the building in a safe and well maintained condition. This list of projects has been prioritized as follows:

- Building Security - *underway*
- Tuck-pointing of steeple - (\$4,500)
- New slabs/steps at Narthex East and West entrances -- possibly also South entrance handicap ramp, steps, and slab - (\$30,000-\$50,000)
- Parking lot - tearing out and replacement of ~8,500 sq ft - (\$32,000)
- Landscaping - replacement of landscaping that has died over the past two years - (\$30,000)
- Interior Painting of sanctuary including balcony, narthex, and sacristy - (\$40,000-\$50,000)
- IT Bench in balcony - (\$2,500)
- Flat Roof replacement - (\$50,000)
- Steeple Painting - (\$44,000)
- Bell Choir Cabinets - (\$16,000)
- Organ – replacement of leather strips - (\$90,000)

These are needed just to keep the church in good working order and safe for our members and guests. The Committee, with the assistance of others, is also looking into having an energy audit of the building completed so we can look at ways to save on energy costs and be an even "greener" facility so we are more environmentally responsible.

As a result, we are asking that you, our members, continue to provide financial support in order for us to accomplish our goal of keeping the facility in good order. Your past contributions are greatly appreciated, but just like owning a home, things need to be repaired, replaced and maintained in order to keep our Church looking as beautiful as it is and ready to serve future members.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed projects or would like to suggest additional projects for the Committee's consideration please contact either Bill Lehmann (734-216-6132) or Jim Love (734-649-5348), who are the co-chairs of the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

*<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."*

*<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

*<sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. Luke 7: 11-17*

## Mission Core Ministry

### Blood Drive—Monday June 13

On Monday June 13, 2016, Zion will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 1—6:45PM in Piper Hall. Volunteer blood donors are a vital part of America's health care system. There is a constant demand for blood, as it is perishable and must be used within 35 - 42 days.

There are several ways to make an appointment:

- To schedule an online appointment go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) with Zion's sponsor code, zionlutheran.
- There will be a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center on Sundays.
- To schedule an appointment through email, please contact Mary Pearson ([marpear@gmail.com](mailto:marpear@gmail.com)) indicating your preferred time (appointments are available on the quarter-hour from 1:00-6:45PM). You will receive a confirming email and we will do our best to reserve the time that is most convenient for you.
- Or call Deborah Weber (734-662-7781).

### New Peace Neighborhood Center Coordinators

In the fall of 2009, the volunteer program known as preparing/serving meals at Peace Neighborhood Center for the after-school program, was started. Together Mary Pfaus and Marianne Rauer coordinated a schedule for volunteers to assist in this program. For the first year, Zion was responsible for one day a month. As the number of volunteers increased, Zion added 2 more days to volunteer each month. It has now been about 8 years that Mary and Marianne have been in charge of preparing the schedule here at Zion to make sure there were sufficient volunteers for a participation day. Both Mary and Marianne, serving as coordinators in preparing the schedule, are now ready to pass this responsibility on to someone or a team of Zion members.

We have been blessed to have two great ladies step up and volunteer to take over this scheduling: Linda Hilst and Helmi Raaska. Thank you, and please remember PNC in your prayers.

### Washtenaw Refugee Welcome

The world currently has more refugees than at any time since World War II. Zion is pleased to be leading a consortium of 6-8 congregations in Washtenaw County working with Samaritas (formerly LSSM) to prepare ourselves to support



one or more refugee families in the coming months, integrating them into life here in our community. Samaritas also joined Zion on Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day) to provide the sermon at morning worship (Rev. Nik Schillack), coordinated the presentation of three refugee mothers during our adult discipleship hour, and hosted an information table between services in the Welcome Center. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in this inspiring work, connecting the needs created by global crisis into a local, compassionate, Christian response. For more information, or to volunteer for Zion's upcoming efforts, please contact Bryan Weinert at [bryancweinert@gmail.com](mailto:bryancweinert@gmail.com).

### Zion's Faith and Food Garden Begins its Fifth Year of Operations



Zion's Faith and Food garden is poised and ready to begin its fifth year of operations this summer. Zion is one of about 25 congregations hosting Faith and Food Gardens here in Washtenaw County. In 2015, Zion's

garden produced roughly 1,500 pounds of local, organically grown produce for distribution to needy county residents via Food Gatherers. The garden hosted a garden work day in early May of this year (sponsored by Thrivent Financial), with 12 hearty Zion souls feeding the beds with fresh compost, weeding, mulching and planting. If you would like to be involved in Zion's garden this summer (either for an hour or for a week), please contact Garden Guardian Bryan Weinert at [bryancweinert@gmail.com](mailto:bryancweinert@gmail.com).

## Member Caring Core Ministry

### Gen X and Boomers

Gen X and Boomers will be meeting at Aubrees in Dexter on Friday, June 17 at 7PM for dinner and drinks. For more information, contact Joanne Dence at [joannedence74@gmail.com](mailto:joannedence74@gmail.com). Friends are welcome! Gen X and Boomers is a social group for singles and married couples in their 40s, 50s and thereabouts!

# JUNE CALENDAR

## Wednesday, June 1

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 10:00 AM Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office  
 12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel  
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room  
 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  
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

## Thursday, June 2

1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room  
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
 6:30 PM Common Ground/Youth Room  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Friday, June 3

12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge  
 5:30 PM Zion Singers Pot-Luck/The Gathering

## Saturday, June 4

2:00 PM Zion Music Concert/Sanctuary

## Sunday, June 5

8:30 AM Drive in Worship/Outdoors  
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel  
 3:00 PM Pavilion Reserved

## Monday, June 6

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

## Tuesday, June 7

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Church Office  
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Wednesday, June 8

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel  
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room  
 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  
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

## Thursday, June 9

9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall  
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room  
 6:30 PM Common Ground/Youth Room  
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Pastor's Office

## Friday, June 10

## Saturday, June 11

9:00 AM Adoptive Family Support Network/Sanctuary

## Sunday, June 12

8:30 AM Drive In Worship/Outdoors  
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel  
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM VBS Training/The Gathering

## Monday, June 13

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot  
 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive/Piper Hall  
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 6:00 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room

## Tuesday, June 14

9:00 AM Good Thyme Gardeners/Creation Station  
 9:00 AM Waterman Board Meeting/The Gathering  
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
 7:15 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station

## Wednesday, June 15

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 10:00 AM Program Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office  
 12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel  
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room  
 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  
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

## Thursday, June 16

1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge  
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room  
 5:00 PM Compassionate Communication/The Gathering

## Friday, June 17

8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/The Gathering

## Saturday, June 18

8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/The Gathering  
 9:00 AM VBS Decorating

## Sunday, June 19 (Father's Day)

8:30 AM Drive In Worship/Outdoors  
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel  
 12:15 PM VBS Decorating

## Monday, June 20

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot  
 9:00 AM VBS/Everywhere!  
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 6:00 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room  
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

## Tuesday, June 21

9:00 AM VBS/Everywhere!  
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 7:00 PM Council/The Gathering

## Wednesday, June 22

9:00 AM VBS/Everywhere!  
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel  
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room  
 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  
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

## Thursday, June 23

9:00 AM VBS/Everywhere!  
 1:00 PM The Bible/Omega Room  
 5:00 PM VBS Family Night/Stellhorn Lounge & W.C.  
 6:30 PM Common Ground/Youth Room

## Friday, June 24

9:00 AM VBS/Everywhere!

## Saturday, June 25

4:00 PM UM Michigan Radio/Piper Hall & Kitchen

## Sunday, June 26

8:30 AM Drive in Worship/Outdoors  
 9:30 AM Traditional Worship (VBS Kids)/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

## Monday, June 27

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot  
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 6:00 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room

## Tuesday, June 28

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry/Church Office  
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

## Wednesday, June 29

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel  
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room  
 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  
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

## Thursday, June 30

1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office  
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room  
 3:00 PM Young Swedish Choir Meal/Hall  
 6:30 PM Common Ground/Youth Room  
 7:00 PM Young Swedish Choir Concert/Sanctuary

# The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church  
1501 West Liberty  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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## May Life Passages at Zion

**BAPTISMS:** *Emelia Lynn Curran, parents Christopher and Stephanie Curran*  
**WEDDINGS:** *Michael Darling & Ashley Ganton; Joseph Smith & Lindsey Gakenheimer*  
**FUNERALS:** *Charles Donmyer; Ellen Shirley Schwartz*  
**NEW MEMBERS:**  
**CONFIRMANDS:** *Henry Branch, Gabi Chen, Violet Dudley, Teresa Frikke-Schmidt, Aliana Groth, Simon Hoffman, Matthew King, Ava Nelson*

## Elected Ministry Leaders

### Congregation Council

President: Dan McConnell ([dmcconnell@zlc-aa.org](mailto:dmcconnell@zlc-aa.org))  
Vice-Pres: Vickie Matthews ([vmatthews@zlc-aa.org](mailto:vmatthews@zlc-aa.org))  
Secretary: Laura Berry ([lberry@zlc-aa.org](mailto:lberry@zlc-aa.org))  
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand ([bbertrand@zlc-aa.org](mailto:bbertrand@zlc-aa.org))  
At Large: Christine Karshin ([ckarshin@zlc-aa.org](mailto:ckarshin@zlc-aa.org))  
Nick Kogleman ([nkogelman@zlc-aa.org](mailto:nkogelman@zlc-aa.org))  
Connie McComb ([cmccomb@zlc-aa.org](mailto:cmccomb@zlc-aa.org))  
Bob Thompson ([rcthompson@zlc-aa.org](mailto:rcthompson@zlc-aa.org))  
Sharon VanRiper ([svanriper@zlc-aa.org](mailto:svanriper@zlc-aa.org))  
Mark Warwashana ([mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org](mailto:mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org))

### Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart, Sharon Ridella-Mehlos  
Welcome: Karen Salamin, Joanne Dence  
Adult Discipleship: Sonja Page, Peter Bertocci  
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya  
Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach  
Missions: Mark Gunderson, Layale Weinert

### Support Ministries

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

## Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	<i>Vacant</i>
Director, Adult Discipleship	<i>Vacant</i>
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	Roger Santini
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
VBS Coordinator	Jessica Rudy
Director of Choirs & Special Music	Natalie Downs
Organist	Elgin Clingaman
Contemporary Worship Leader	Alison Hendricks
Sound Operator	Tyler Dence
Worship Media Coordinator	Eddie VanRiper
Resident Custodian	Chris LeVasseur
Weekend Custodian	Max Wojewski
Wedding Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Nursery Coordinator	Kaili Dence

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

[www.zlc-aa.org](http://www.zlc-aa.org).

Office phone (734) 994-4455