

The Tower

May 2017

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

Know Christ! Grow in Christ! Make Christ Known!



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



What's Happening at Zion

May Focus Statement

"It won't be our message that wows people; it will be our love." - Bob Goff

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update— Recommendation to Call Pastor Vicky

Hello! Thanks for your continued prayers and support. Our members include: Holli Bertram, Kay Davoux, Dale Eckart (chair), Dan McConnell (ex officio), Margie Reynolds, Matt Rudy, Bob Thompson, and Emmeline Weinert. The call committee has deeply appreciated the many conversations and emails we've received from you concerning the process and various candidate options; we thank you for your prayers, support and engagement.

After beginning our work in February 2016, the Call Committee has recommended – unanimously and joyfully – to Zion's Congregation Council that we call Vicky Lovell to be our associate pastor. We believe that her gifts and talents for ministry have been, and presently are, enriching to the people of Zion, young and old, women and men. She will lead us to minister outside our walls, and will teach us to see the face of Jesus in people and places we might otherwise overlook.

Many of you have suggested to us that we consider Vicky; the suggestions began almost as soon as she joined us. All the members of the call committee wanted to ensure that she had a strong internship experience and that we did not turn the internship into a months-long job interview. All of the candidates we contacted spoke of the important lessons and experiences that each had during the internship year. By working closely with our bishop and the staff of the Southeast Michigan Synod, we believe that we have succeeded in both giving her a meaningful internship experience and finding the person to whom God was leading us for blessings in the years to come.

As required by our constitution, a congregational meeting will be scheduled to formally affirm Zion's desire to extend a call to Vicky [see article at right]. She will graduate from seminary over the weekend of May 20-21, and her ordination and installation services will be scheduled for early June.

Thanks again from all the members of the call committee for your prayers and support during this journey of faith. God is good, all the time!

Notification of Call Meeting

Your Congregation Council, at a meeting on April 18, 2017 reviewed and approved the call committee's recommendations:

1. to nominate unanimously, for the congregation's approval, Victoria Lovell, for the position of Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church;
2. to seek the congregation's approval of the agreed-upon compensation and benefits package for the pastoral candidate; and
3. to call a special meeting of the congregation for the sole purpose of electing the Associate Pastor candidate and approving the recommended compensation and benefits package. ***The Special Congregational Meeting will be on May 7, 2017 at 10:10AM in the sanctuary.*** A two-thirds majority vote, by written ballot, is required by the attendees at the specially called meeting to elect the pastoral candidate and to approve the recommended compensation and benefits package (there will be a single vote on the election of the pastor and the compensation package—no other business will be conducted at the meeting). Proxy votes are not allowed. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Calendar Notes

May 7—Special Congregational Meeting

May 21—Last Bibleland, C&C and JAM Classes; 11:11AM service led by youth

May 28—First Light Service moves outdoors through Labor Day; Summer Service times: 8:30AM, 9:30AM and 11AM

Worship Core Ministry

Calling All Musicians!

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

- **The Rings of the Lord (Handbells)** meets weekly on Thursdays from 6-7:30PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary. The last rehearsal date for the year is June 1st.
- **Chancel Choir** meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30-9PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome singers ages high school through adult. The last rehearsal date for the year is June 1st.

Singers and instrumentalists are also encouraged to provide Special Music throughout our weekly and festival worship services. If you are interested in sharing your music, please email Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

Zion Singers

Zion Singers is a group of singers with daytime availability who come together once a month (usually the 4th Friday of each month) to prepare and present a program of sacred, fun, and seasonal songs to residents at a local nursing care, assisted living, or hospice care facility. All are welcome to participate! Our next date is Friday, May 26th at Atria Senior Living. Our rehearsal will be at 12:30PM in Music Room 1 on Level B1, and the performance will be at Atria at 2PM.

Luther Year Community Choir

Join us for the Luther Year Community Choir event, part of Zion's Luther Quincentennial Celebration! This event will be synod-wide, as we will invite other ELCA Lutheran congregations to come and sing. All are welcome to come and sing in this event. Our guest conductor, Dr. Zebulon Highben of Muskingum University, will direct music relevant to the themes of the Reformation on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 4PM. To register, please sign-up in the Welcome Center or call the church at (734) 994-4455. Music will be distributed this summer. Rehearsals will be available in the summer at Zion for those who wish to rehearse in a group setting on Thursdays 7-8PM from July 13—August 31.

Rehearsals with Dr. Highben will be Friday, Sept. 22 (evening, time TBD), Saturday, Sept. 23 (morning and afternoon rehearsals with a lunch break in between), and Sunday, Sept. 24 (before the 4PM concert). Zion has commissioned Dr. Highben to compose a choral piece for this 500th anniversary, and the choir will premiere the composition at the concert.

For more information, contact Natalie Downs at: ndowns@zlc-aa.org. For more information on Dr. Highben, please visit his website: <http://www.zebulonhighben.com/>

May Lectionary

- May 7** Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
- May 14** Acts 7:55-70, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
- May 21** Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21
- May 28** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Summer Special Music Needed

We are in need of music for our summer worship. If you are interested in singing, ringing, or playing an instrument, please contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org) to sign up for a date.

Zion Choral Scholars Program - Next Year!

Since the program has been a success this past year, the music ministry and Chancel Choir would like to continue it next fall, and Council has approved the continuation. At this time, we are looking for monetary contributions for the scholarship program for the next school year, whether it is a small donation, paying for one semester, paying for a full year, or setting up a yearly memorial scholarship. Each student receives an \$800 scholarship per semester, directly deposited into their student accounts, which goes toward their music education. We would like to have five Choral Scholars again for next year, if possible.

In this program, students learn about Lutheran church music, through application, by:

- the practice of cantoring during worship services
- singing in large and small ensembles
- helping lead the congregation in song
- singing sacred vocal solos fitting to the season and/or message

The benefits of the program:

- opens our doors to the university music community
- gives opportunities to music students to sharpen their own musical skills during worship in a safe and welcoming environment
- the choir and congregation serve as a community for the students
- students learn through participation and musical application about Lutheran worship
- helps balance voices for choral anthems, and assists those within the section who may miss a week of practice or who need extra assistance
- helps diversify our worship experience

If you would like to contribute to the Choral Scholar Program, please fill out the blue sheet (found in the church office and Welcome Center) and submit it with your contribution to either the church office during the week, or the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org)

From Pastor Jim

Celebrating and Practicing Resurrection

⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. - Matthew 28:5-8.

May is a month that ushers in many opportunities to celebrate, and celebrations come with fear and joy. We will be celebrating the possibility of a new call for Pr. Vicky here at Zion and her graduation from Luther Seminary. In consultation with Luther Seminary and Bishop Kreiss of the Southeast Michigan Synod, Vicky ends her internship April 30. The call team could interview and extend a call to Vicky Lovell because the ELCA bishops adopted new rules last August that allowed Vicky to be considered at Zion for her first call as an associate pastor. God has been working in and through so many to make this possibility a reality. Continue to pray for Zion's staff and especially Vicky and her family as we move through the first call process.

This month, sons and daughters will be giving thanks for their mothers as they celebrate Mother's Day on May 14. To celebrate Mothers and families, Zion will have a photo booth, so that memories can be captured. Plan to come and worship at Zion and celebrate the gift of mothers and families with a great photo.

Youth will be graduating from high school and college. Weddings will take place. On Memorial Day, U.S. soldiers who died in military service are commemorated. Festive occasions are touching many families.

The Church continues to celebrate Easter and the power of the resurrection in May. Christians are called to practice resurrection in our daily life. It's not something that we practice like a golf swing or musical scales. It's more like a practice that defines the character and work of a lawyer or physician. We are called to practice resurrection as we engage in life at home or work; saturated by the presence and companionship of the resurrected Jesus.

Celebrations feel like little resurrections that uplift, encourage and maybe even change us. We are to be living witnesses to the one who conquered death and lives still. We joyfully tell the story of his resurrection, but we should also be looking for stories of resurrection, ways we've seen resurrection, experienced resurrection, or felt resurrection that are around us. Without the miracle of Christ's resurrection, the story of Jesus would at most be good advice (how to live a life) and not good news. Resurrection changes everything. Easter season is the perfect opportunity for us to run with excitement and tell the news of new life. Join me in looking for work still going on around us as we walk through the celebratory month of May with joy and fear.

Intern's Corner



Question: Your internship ended on April 30th. What were some of the highlights over the last nine months?

Answer: The best part of my experience at Zion was getting to know the people. From day one, I always felt very welcomed. Pastor Jim was an unbelievably supportive supervisor, the staff was kind and helpful, Team Vicky (the internship committee) was always there to motivate me. Each person I met in the congregation encouraged me and helped my family and me to feel right at home at Zion. The Sunday "hug line" as people left the church always warmed my heart. I have really grown to love it here! ☺

The gratitude that I have for Zion is more than can be expressed through simple words on a page. God worked through the people of Zion to bless my family. Whether interacting with folks on community outreach projects, through global mission work, during Bible studies, in worship, or just having conversations, I always felt an openness and an eagerness to follow where the Holy Spirit was leading. It makes me think that God is really up to something at Zion!

There were so many projects that I was able to work on throughout this internship, but the one that will always be special to me is the 40/40 Project. Our friends from the Delon Center reached their goal of purchasing 40 pigs in the 40 days of Lent. The Stawa University Pig Farm in Uganda is up and running! Our friends experiencing homelessness are changing lives on the other side of the world. Now that is faith in action! So, thank you Zion, for making the last 9 months a wonderful experience for this intern.

Congregation Council

Council Meeting March 21, 2017—Highlights

Financial Report

- **Cash**—Available cash at the end of February was \$189,376. Cash in the operations account as of 3/17/17 is approximately \$185,000. We currently have sufficient cash on hand for the foreseeable future.
- **Income**—For the month of February, contributions were \$59,160, which was \$925 more than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$56,662 in February last year. YTD, contributions are \$443 less than budgeted, but \$2,125 more than YTD last year.
- **Expenses**—Three ministries were over budget in February. Overall spending was \$8,023 under budget for the month. No ministries are over budget YTD. Spending is \$23,177 under budget YTD.
- **Dedicated Funds**—The Uganda Mission dedicated fund was formed to track funds associated with Pr. Vicky's Uganda mission work. As of mid-February this fund had a negative balance of \$1,676.79. Pr. Debner asked David to transfer this amount from the General Memorial fund to cover the deficit. The Uganda Mission Dedicated fund then had a \$0 balance, but a new fundraising effort has been started and money has been deposited in this dedicated fund to help Ugandans raise pigs.
There have been several new dedicated accounts started, at Pr. Debner's request. They are in the Benevolence section of the dedicated accounts. Two are for ministries working with the homeless, and one is for a new ministry working with refugees.
- **New Account**—We have opened a new account at the Bank of Ann Arbor and transferred \$250,000. We did this for insurance reasons. FDIC insures deposits up to \$250,000 per institution. The paperwork was still in process until a couple of weeks ago, but the account is now open and the funds have been transferred.

YTD Attendance and Offering

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Attendance | 2,269 | 2,656 | (387) |
| -Including Bibleland | 2,836 | 3,326 | (490) |
| Offering | \$128,854 | \$126,729 | \$2,125 |
| Offering per Person | \$56.79 | \$47.71 | \$9.07 |

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome

Margie Reynolds presented the work of Zion's contribution to Washtenaw Refugee Welcome, which belongs under the work of Mission Core Ministry (MCM). Margie's goal is to communicate to council what this committee has been doing, and how it is working within the current structure. MCM is aware of what this committee has been doing. There will be an "informed minute" in April and one in the Tower [see April Tower].

Margie explained that Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of MI) has been placing refugees in MI for many years. In Washtenaw County, Jewish Family Services (JFS) has been the main organization for placing refugees. Over the past year they've settled about 200 people. JFS can support people for 90 days and then the funding stops. JFS has experience in helping people find housing, health care, etc. Last spring, Samaritas applied to settle refugees in Washtenaw as well. Their application to the government was accepted. However, with the blockage of refugees, none have been settled here since November – but it looks like Samaritas will be receiving its first case.

Meanwhile, a collaboration of churches formed Washtenaw Refugee Welcome and this group meets the first Monday of each month. Zion is becoming known to some of the refugees, and it is a good opportunity for us to welcome people. WRW has decided to focus on addressing needs of refugees after the first 90 days, and work with individuals, focusing on relationships. At Zion, we would like to identify a niche (and other churches will identify their own niches as well) of a need that we could fill. We'd like to get a list of skills, such as resume writing, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), carpentry, bus line knowledge, etc. that we at Zion have and could offer. In addition, Zion member Emmiline Weinert is putting together a list of the urgent needs these people have.

Zion also has a dedicated fund, called Dedicated Zion Refugee 90 Funds. These funds could be used to meet the urgent needs of refugees. Currently, there is \$2K in the fund from a donor. We have also asked to be a part of the Stewardship for All Seasons Campaign, so potentially additional funds will be donated. At this point, we haven't done anything to raise money. From this past December's Good Gifts fundraiser, \$10K for refugees went to Samaritas. If people want to give to the refugee cause, the fund is there. Margie has also had people outside of the church ask if they could donate. Anyone can donate to help refugees through Zion and get tax deduction.

WRW has identified a need to make refugees feel more welcome, and would like to plan something related to food at Zion, and maybe reach out to a local mosque. WRW is working on each of these areas as well as communication to and outside of Zion. At the next meeting, the group will clarify plans.

Margie discussed some of the needs of refugees with Council. Refugees have to reimburse the government for their flight here. The average time a refugee spends in a refugee camp is 17 years. For the average Palestinian, it's 40 years. JFS has a number of ESL classes, and have interpreters that they send with refugees to medical appointments. Most of the interpreters and teachers are from the University, either students or professors. The needs of refugees are not completely addressed after 90 days and there is a tremendous opportunity for Zion to make a difference in people's lives.

Congregation Council (cont.)

Choral Scholar Program

Natalie is requesting Council's approval to fundraise in support of the Choral Scholar program. Natalie began this program last year. Natalie surveyed the choir to gather their input about this program and 100% of the choir supports renewing the choral scholar program. Natalie also surveyed the choral scholars themselves. One choral scholar wrote, "I love being part of a new community." Another wrote, "I hope they ask me back." Natalie has a lot of feedback to consider from the surveys. The choral scholar program is not budgeted. Natalie had raised all the funds and did the recruiting of the choral scholars. Motion: Council authorized Natalie to raise funds for the next iteration of the choral scholar program [see related article, page 2].

Synod Assembly Delegates

The SE Michigan Synod Assembly will be taking place May 4-6, at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron, MI. This is a Thursday and Friday night, and part of Saturday. We need to recruit delegates. We need a minimum of two lay members, one male & one female; we can also have additional members. Pr. Jim and Dan will go. Margie is going but does not count toward our minimum since she is attending as a member of the Synod Council. Bob is willing to go. Sharon could go Thursday. Pr. Vicky is likely going, as a student. Dan will ask Barbara Debner if she'd like to attend as our female delegate.

Synod Gift

To respond to Bishop Kriess's request, we've been discussing a gift to the synod of \$30K/year for a period of 5 years. We proposed this gift as part of our Stewardship For All Seasons (SFAS) campaign letter. Since it's part of SFAS, if we don't raise it, we would not make up the difference. That is, our gift is contingent on receiving an increase in giving via SFAS. Council discussed making this gift and our role as a church: serving the local community and serving the larger community and the world, as part of the greater church. Council approved supporting a gift of \$30K/year, contingent on receiving the funds.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee had posed a series of questions regarding the creation of an endowment fund specifically focused on supporting mission work. Our feedback is to ask the Endowment Committee to develop the answers to their questions and make a proposal.

Audit Committee

According to the constitution, we need to appoint an audit committee of three people. We have two people who are willing, (Randy Dence and Craig Berry), and we need one more. The audit committee will need to do a mandatory review of Zion's accounting once per year.

Air Dryer

We approved the Building and Grounds committee's request for funding for an air dryer (part of the building's

HVAC system) via email in mid-March 2017.

SFAS

Stewardship is moving forward. Council responded, and we do not know the response rate for elected leaders (Bob will ask). Pledge cards are due from the congregation on Palm Sunday.

Young Discipleship and Coordinator of Family Life Position

Until this position is filled, we have hired a member (Michelle Clifford) to organize fundraisers, etc. Currently there are three people potentially interested in this position, all from out-of-state.

Council Job Descriptions

We still need to create them. Bob is not aware of any recent activities. Two components: member at large, and then our specific liaison roles. These differ among members. It will be nice to finish this. Sharon suggested giving the descriptions of Council member-at-large positions to the new Council members and have them annotate it; how well does the description tell you what the job is?

Memorial Garden

The plans are close to being finalized. At the last Council meeting, we approved work to be done on the South Entrance. Our architect recommended combining these two projects, in terms of permitting and ensuring no additional impervious surface. The Memorial Garden is funded via a special gift that someone has donated, and the south door refurbishment would be funding by Vogel gift. B&G will bring a design when ready.

Strategic Planning

Attracting younger people is not a faith issue. Young people can listen to whomever they choose on their devices, they desire community at a deeper level, and they want to do something.

Associate Pastor

At our next Council meeting, the call committee will be coming to make their recommendation to us for the associate pastor. If we approve, we could then call a congregational meeting (May 7) so that we could extend the call [see related articles, page 1].

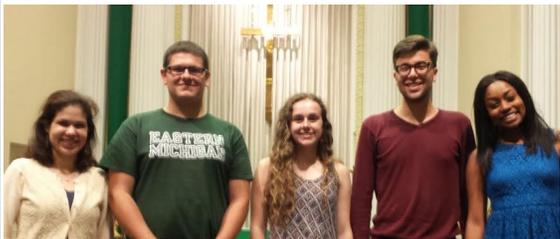
Upcoming Graduation

Vicky is graduating on May 21, and Council discussed a graduation gift for her. Sharon suggests a note in the mid-week update to let people know they can contribute, and Council discussed the need to include our thanks.

³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." - Acts 1:3-5

Thank You and Congratulations

Zion Choral Scholars - Thank You!



The music ministry at Zion was blessed to have Mahari Conston, Claire Agresta, Aurora Haziri, Collin Price, and Tanner Hoertz serve as Choral Scholars this past year. The choir and music ministry team have enjoyed getting to know all of them and praise God through song with them. We are so thankful for their talent and willingness to serve at Zion. To our members who donated scholarship funds: thank you! Your donations helped this program succeed and provided blessings to the students' education. To our congregation: thank

you for welcoming these students and providing a safe, encouraging community for them to share their musical gifts.

Zion Concert Series

Thank you to all who supported our guest musicians this past year! Stay tuned for the upcoming 2017-2018 Series!

The church would like to thank Pastors Jim & Vicky for their dedication & creativity in leading the Zion congregation and guests in 10 worship services during Holy Week! Thank you for your inspiring messages that led us through a reflective week, ending with the triumphant energy of Easter!

Adult Discipleship

Adult Classes—May 2017

May 7 *End of Life Issues 3:* What happens after you die? Have you thought about your funeral, burial options, writing your own obituary? What will your family need to take care of in the first few days? Planning now for these events will ease the task for your family. Discussion will include Zion's programs of support for those experiencing the grieving and healing process.

Exploring the Labyrinth. - Prof. Delph. Classroom C. Labyrinths have been part of Christian heritage since the Middle Ages. They are found inscribed on the floor of numerous Gothic Cathedrals across Europe; we even have one here at Zion! Labyrinths were used for a variety of purposes: as pilgrimage routes, contemplative paths, and as a tool for spiritual healing and growth. We will examine how labyrinths have been used and explore the use of Zion's labyrinth as a means of spiritual growth.

May 14 *Health and Wellness Through Scripture, Sacrament and Service 1* - Vera McEwen

May 21 *Health and Wellness Through Scripture, Sacrament and Service 2* - Vera McEwen

May 28 *Health and Wellness Through Scripture, Sacrament and Service 3* - Vera McEwen

A Mother's Day Reflection

By LaFern Haas

(An Active Member of Zion Lutheran for her whole life. She turns 90 in June.)

*I looked in the mirror and what did I see,
I saw my mother looking back at me.*

*She has been gone for more than 39 years.
I have loving memories without many tears.*

*So, I look like my mother, that's all right with me.
And I act like my mother – that's even better to be.*

*Mom raised an active family of 12 kids with glee.
God blessed us with a special Mom, we all agree.*

*We were poor in worldly measure
But we had our Mom, the greatest treasure.*

*When I look and see Mom in my reflection
I will give God praise for His faithful direction.*

Young Discipleship

ZION VBS 2017

June 19 – June 23, 9AM-Noon

Family Night
Thursday June 22nd



VBS Celebration Service
Sunday June 25th

VBS 2017 Registration for Students

<https://tinyurl.com/AAZionVBS2017regstudent>

VBS 2017 Registration for Staff/Volunteers

<https://tinyurl.com/AAZionVBS2017regstaff>

Questions? Contact Jessica Rudy -- AAZionVBS@gmail.com

8th Grade Confirmation Schedule

Sunday 5/7 - Review Day, Decorate Stoles and Faith Statements are due.

Saturday 6/3 - Rite of Confirmation Day practice from 9—11AM in the sanctuary.

Sunday 6/4 - Rite of Confirmation at the 11AM service in the sanctuary.

Senior Recognition Sunday

The church will be recognizing our high school seniors with a video at the 9AM & 11:11AM services on May 14. Parents, please send pictures, HS name, college or work plans to Chris Gajar as soon as possible: chrisgajar@sbcglobal.net.

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

- John 14:1-14

Mission Core Ministry

Hands-on Anti-Poverty Program Coming to Ann Arbor

Circles, a unique national program that seeks to build personal relationships across socio-economic divides, is coming to Washtenaw County. The Circles approach helps families break the generational cycle of poverty by creating circles of support that give individuals and families the tools they need to succeed over the long-term. Zion's members are invited to participate in this hands-on, "up close and personal" project, facilitated by the local non-profit Friends In Deed. Volunteers are needed to help with hospitality, meals, childcare, mentoring and outreach. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the local Circles website at www.friendsindeedmi.org/circles or contact Circles Program Coordinator Suzanne Van Dam at suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org.

There will be a "Volunteer Mixer" for interested Circles volunteers on Thursday, May 25 at 7PM at a location to be determined. Enjoy snacks, meet other Circles leaders/volunteers, increase your poverty IQ and sign up for further training. Zion will promote the location of this event once more details are available. Like Zion's emerging refugee work, Circles brings God's people into direct contact/relationship with "the other" in ways that build connection, love, support and a shared humanity. It's a "Church-y" kinda thing, with a capital "C"! Thanks be to God.

Volunteers Needed for Zion's Faith and Food Garden

Zion members and friends are encouraged to sign up for one or more weeks of garden care this season at our Faith and Food Garden (located behind the playground area). The garden grows fresh, organic produce (upwards of 1,000 lbs/year) that is donated to hungry neighbors via Food Gatherers. Individuals, families, small groups, Zion's youth group and others are invited to participate in helping out at the garden. No prior gardening experience is necessary. Tasks will include planting, weeding, watering and harvesting. If you are interested in getting outdoors and getting some dirt under your fingernails, please contact Zion's Garden Guardian Layale Weinert at lfweinert@gmail.com or give her a call at 734-883-6506.

Grace in Action Work Day Saturday May 20

Zion members are invited to join in on a work day at our ELCA ministry partner Grace in Action in Southwest Detroit on Saturday May 20 from 10AM-3PM. This ministry in the "Mexicantown" area of Detroit is led by Pastors John and Meghan Cummings, and for over five years has worked to fulfill its mission to "build authentic community, reclaim the mission of the church and create justice for all of God's people." We will travel together in Zion's van, and Pastor John and our own Vera McEwen will be our hosts. Grace in Action moved to a new location several years ago with many new possibilities for renovation and expansion of their community ministries. We will be helping with painting, cleaning/organizing, landscaping, planting flowers and more. In addition, we will enjoy an authentic Mexican lunch and maybe even some Mexican-style ice cream from a nearby shop! Please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Center desk and join us! For further info contact Pat Bauer, plbauer@ameritech.net.

Welcome Core Ministry

Online Directory Photo Session

If you haven't yet had a chance to have your photo taken and want to be included in the online photo directory, we will be hosting our next photo session on Sunday, May 7 in Stellhorn Lounge from 9-11AM. Or, here is another option: simply send, to Joanne Dence (joannedence74@gmail.com), the following information:

- A recent photo (JPG format)
- Name (and children's names, if applicable)
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email address (required for mobile access)

Please note whatever information you send will be included in the directory, but you can include all or just some of the contact information. At the very least, we will need your email address so we can send you the detailed instructions on how to download the directory to your smartphone. You can also access the directory from the Zion website. It is password protected, so once you are in the directory, you can call the church office for the password. To ensure everyone's privacy, only Zion members can be included in the directory.

If you are already in the directory, and any of your contact information has changed, please forward the new information so we can make the appropriate updates.

Member Caring Ministry

Step By Step



"Step by Step" Zion's new Women's Walking partner ministry has begun. We are encouraging more women to step out and start making connections. Move forward into a healthier season. Weekdays there are women in your town who are available to walk. There are unique devotional focus ideas each month available for women interested. Email ques-

tions to babdebner@gmail.com.

- Sunday, May 7, we will meet at North Bay Park at exit 183 on I-94 (South Huron Street) in Ypsilanti Township. Weather permitting we will meet at 3PM and walk for an hour. There are boardwalks and lots of birds. Feel free to bring binoculars.
- Saturday, May 13, weather permitting, we will meet at Dexter Public Library to walk the Westside Connector starting at 10:15AM. Email interest so we can watch and wait for you.
- Sunday, May 28, weather permitting, we will meet on Zion's church steps at 1:30PM. We will try to walk to Bethlehem Cemetery (45 minute walk) and hopefully walk around in this sacred space. If you just want to meet us there that is possible too. Allow at least 2 1/2 hours if you are walking from and back to Zion.

Record time or distance so you can share your healthy progress. Save September 30th for our Celebration Connections Brunch.

Women's Bible Study —

"Love Lives Here"

"Love Lives Here" women's bible study will be meeting twice in May at Barbara Debner's home: May 14 at 6:30-8PM for snacks, and May 27 at 10:30AM-noon for brunch. It is still open to women interested in a simple small group study and fellowship time this season. Consider this your personal invitation to grow. Bring your bible and enjoy fellowship with other women. Email babdebner@gmail.com with questions or to find out how you can join the fun.

June Chick Flick

We will watch "Letters to God" in the Gathering on Sunday, June 11. This is an innocent story of hope and inspiration. Movie starts at 4:30PM and while watching, we will create simple notes cards. We will finish before 6:30.

Battling Life with Strategic Prayer

On Tuesday May 30, we are showing the movie *War Room* to encourage all closet-praying Christians. Arrive at 6PM at the Gathering with your comfortable chair. The movie starts with popcorn at 6:10. This is a family event open to men and women interested in the amazing Power of Prayer. The movie stars Pricilla Shirer and is another amazingly rich Kendrick brothers production that is only a year out of the theater. The Zion prayer team is hoping to challenge a fresh focus on intentional prayer. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or church office by May 21 so you can receive resources after the movie. We hope to share a trailer for *War Room* during worship or in hall monitors in early May. Hope to see you there!



Samaritas News

Home and Community Campus in Westland

Samaritas, your Lutheran agency with the motto of "serving people with the love of Christ", operates a large number of facilities around the state. In the next few months, we will highlight a few of them and the services that they provide. This month, it's the Home and Community Campus in Westland, which has been operated by Samaritas for over 20 years. The Campus is set up to provide emergency shelter for homeless families, including families with both or just one parent, as well as pregnant women. It houses up to 100 persons in 25 rooms. It also coordinates the emergency food service program for low-income residents in western Wayne County and downriver areas. They are heavily dependent on donations for small things and have a website listing possibilities:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/ref=cm_reg_rd-upd?ie=UTF8&id=3AVMEF4PJSKRL&type=giftlist

Wayne County is considering changes to the facility, including the possibility that Samaritas would take over control of the property (rather than just the services as they do now) through Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the government. If applications for these funds are successful, remodeling of buildings (to accommodate more families) would begin next summer. At present Samaritas' operation of the facility is within budget largely because Wayne County has picked up the cost of utilities. If you want to help, you can contact them at: 734-721-0590.

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry Update

On April 22, I finished my latest class as part of the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA. My classmates and I have been sprinting through the Old Testament. One of the aspects that has impressed me the most is the degree of variety in styles and sources throughout the OT, and the incredible span of centuries that it covers. The books represent the sacred traditions and revelations of the Hebrew people over 1000 years. The message of the LORD came to them in times of plenty and military victories, and times of exile and absolute defeat. These were the Scriptures that were read in the synagogues as Jesus was growing up, and represent a connection to our Jewish sisters and brothers today. Pastor Bux has also pointed us to several online resources to help us work with the text, to help connect the Scriptures to our lives today. He has recommended some approaches to use in our preaching and our ministry – diagnosis and prognosis – to help us have a better “nose for the Gospel,” God’s good news which people need to hear. The next class begins on May 6, and the LLMs (both students and practicing lay ministers) will meet for our summer retreat on June 3, 2017.

Our Southeast Michigan synod (like a few other ELCA synods, though not Northwest Michigan) recognized an additional need to train and equip lay leaders. In fact, the Southeast Michigan synod is a leader in lay leader education, and one of our recent graduates was asked by her bishop to start up a similar program in the Grand Canyon Synod (Arizona and Nevada). The LLM program is described on the SE MI synod web site <http://www.semisynod.com/leaders/licensed-lay-ministry>. Our classes are shorter than university level classes, and we apply for licensure with our synod. The LLM status is not a national program – at least, not yet. Presiding Bishop Eaton visited our synod assembly last year, and was interested in the LLM program that we had in place.

- Dale Eckart

Voices of Children: Many Faiths, One Song



The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will present a unique interfaith music event - *Voices of Children: Many Faiths, One Song*. Four children's choirs from: the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, Temple Beth Emeth, St. Clare's Episcopal Church and The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation will participate.

- Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017
- Time: 4PM (doors open at 3:30)
- Location: Genesis, 2309 Packard Street (Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal shared building)

Given the current climate in our county and country, this will be a beautiful way to show our support for diversity and inclusion. There will be an opportunity to donate to the work of the IRT. For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu

Financial Stewardship News

Gift Planning

Your Zion Endowment Committee notes that estate planning is the way to continue your life's work. It is important that you invest some time to ensure that your life's efforts will further the causes and people who will most treasure your gifts. You can prepare a proper will and make other arrangements for the easy, inexpensive transfer of your estate. Contact your attorney and set up an appointment.

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

- John 14:15-21

MAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 1

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, May 2

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:30 PM Personnel Committee Meeting/Church Office
 7:00 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, May 3

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, May 4

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 12:30 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 2:30 PM 2017 SEMI Synod Assembly/Port Huron
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, May 5

12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 2:30 PM 2017 SEMI Synod Assembly/Port Huron
 5:00 PM Olive/Graustein Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday, May 6

5:00 PM Olive/Gruastein Wedding/Sanctuary

Sunday, May 7

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
 8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
 8:45 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
 9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
 10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Yeager Chapel
 11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Main Kitchen

Monday, May 8

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
 7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, May 9

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room

7:30 PM Al-anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, May 11

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, May 12

Saturday, May 13

Sunday, May 14 *Mother's Day*

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
 8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
 10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Yeager Chapel
 11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Love Lives Here Women's Study/
 Debner's home

Monday, May 15

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Reconciling in Christ Core Team Meeting/
 Omega Room
 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, May 16

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM VBS Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, May 17

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, May 18

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 11:00 AM International Neighbors/Piper Hall
 1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsals/Sanctuary

Friday, May 19

12:00 PM Zion Senior Lunch set-up/Piper Hall
 6:00 PM Scrapbooking/The Gathering

Saturday, May 20

9:00 AM Scrapbooking/The Gathering
 10:00 AM Grace in Action/Off Site
 12:00 PM Zion Senior Luncheon/Piper Hall

Sunday, May 21

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center

8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
 10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
 10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Yeager Chapel
 11:11 AM Youth-led Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, May 22

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, May 23

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry Meeting/Church Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 24

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
 7:30 PM Al-anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday May 25

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, May 26

12:30 PM Zion Singer's Rehearsal/Music Room #1
 2:00 PM Zion Singers/Off Site

Saturday, May 27

10:30 AM Love Lives Here Women's Study/
 Debner's home

Sunday, May 28

8:30 AM First Light Worship/Outdoors
 9:30 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Worship/Yeager Chapel

Monday, May 29

OFFICE CLOSED-MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 30

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Battling Life w/Strategic Prayer Movie/
 The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 31

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

The Tower

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April Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: Colter Kent Davison, parents: Scott & Kelly Davison
WEDDINGS:
FUNERALS: Art Dils
NEW MEMBERS:

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

President: Dan McConnell (dmcconnell@zlc-aa.org)
Vice-Pres: Vickie Matthews (vmatthews@zlc-aa.org)
Secretary: Laura Berry (lberry@zlc-aa.org)
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand (bbertrand@zlc-aa.org)
At Large: Chris King (cking@zlc-aa.org)
Gordon Loll (gloll@zlc-aa.org)
Carrie Morton (cmorton@zlc-aa.org)
Bob Thompson (rcthompson@zlc-aa.org)
Sharon VanRiper (svanriper@zlc-aa.org)
Mark Warwashana (mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org)

Core Ministries

Worship: Steve Johgart, Christine Nelson
Welcome: Joanne Dence, Karen Salamin
Adult Discipleship: Ron Delph, Peter Bertocci
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya
Member Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach
Missions: Mark Gunderson, Layale Weinert

Support Ministries

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

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 | <i>Vacant</i> |
| 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 | Emmeline Weinert |
| Nursery Care Giver | Kamryn Hayes, Anna Dupke |
| Librarian | Carleen Vanderbok |

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

www.zlc-aa.org

Office phone (734) 994-4455

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