

The Tower

August 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.



August Focus Statement

Extend Grace. Offer Forgiveness. Lavish People with Love. – M. Feinberg

I was recently reading a devotion by Mark Batterson, entitled *Stop Praying and Start Acting*. There are some things we don't need to pray about:

- We don't need to pray about loving our neighbors.
- We don't need to pray about giving generously or serving sacrificially.
- We don't need to pray about blessing someone when it is in our power to do so.
- We don't have to pray about turning the other cheek or going the extra mile.



God has already spoken on those subjects. He reminds us that we are called to pray about everything, but there comes a time when praying becomes a form of spiritual procrastination. It's time to stop praying and start acting. Batterson said, "When Christianity turns into a noun, it becomes a turnoff. Christianity was always intended to be a verb — more specifically, an action verb. The title of the book of Acts says it all, doesn't it? It's not the book of Ideas or Words. It's the book of Acts. And if we said less and did more, I believe we would have the same kind of impact the first-century church had. And while we're on the subject, we should be more known for what we're for than what we're against."

When everything is said and done, God won't say, "Well said, good and faithful servant." He won't say, "Well thought," "well planned," or even "well prayed." There is only one commendation He will give: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23).

May your summer be filled not just with prayers and hopes for relaxation and rejuvenation, but with actions that focus on renewal, resistance of discouragement and relying on Christ. May you hear God's loving words each day, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"
- Pr. Jim

Update from Memorial Garden Committee

Many of you are aware that we are planning to enlarge The Good Shepherd Memorial Garden by adding a columbarium in an outer wall. Each niche in the columbarium is designed to store the ashes of either one or two people above the ground. The current Garden will not be disturbed, but the outside wall will be lowered to seating height. The project went out for bids which were due July 13th. Look for updates in the weekly bulletin.

In the meantime, we invite you to consider purchasing a memorial brick to honor a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. The deadline for ordering these bricks for placement yet this year is September 15th. Forms for ordering memorial bricks are in the racks in the Welcome Center and just outside the Administrative Office area. The cost per brick is \$150.

Many of you may be unaware of the record books that memorialize donors, pastors, and those we keep in memory, whether interred at Zion or elsewhere. In the past these books have been kept in the back of the Yeager Chapel. The case has been moved to the room just inside the Memorial Garden entrance for easier access. We are planning a display area with the original model of the Good Shepherd statue, the record books on a shelf for more convenient viewing, and a framed copy of the history of the statue. Please stop by to look at the records, which are done by our expert calligrapher, Marcia Monson.

Welcome Core Ministry

Welcome Core Ministry Website Enhancements

We have included two new videos on Zion's website. On the homepage, we have the new Welcome Video. We have also completed a video highlighting the Friends in Deed ministry. This video can be found in the Mission Core Ministry pages and can also be easily accessed from Announcements on the homepage. We will be including additional videos throughout the year. So check them out!

Worship Core Ministry

Calling All Musicians!

It's a great time to join a music ensemble this fall at Zion.

Rehearsals start back on Thursday, September 7th

- **The Rings of the Lord** (Handbells) needs you! We are in need of ringers!! The Rings of the Lord meets weekly on Thursdays from 5:45-7PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary. Music reading helps.
- **Chancel Choir** meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30-9PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome singers ages high school through adult.

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 on a Friday 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. Rehearsals and visits begin in September. All are welcome to participate! Interested in joining? Contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

August Lectionary

- Aug 6:** Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21
Aug 13: 1 Kings 19:9-18, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33
Aug 20: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15: [10-20], 21-28
Aug 27: Isaiah 51:1-6, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Zion Choral Scholars Program

The music ministry will offer the Zion Choral Scholars Program again next year. We are also adding this year a Zion Handbell Scholars Program!

At this time, we are looking for monetary contributions for the scholarship programs 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 a scholarship per semester (\$800 for Choral; \$350 for Handbells), which is directly deposited into their students accounts, going toward their music education. We would like to have five Choral Scholars again for next year and two Handbell Scholars, if possible.

If you would like to contribute to the Choral Scholar Program and/or Handbell Scholar Program, please fill out the form in the Welcome Center (blue for Choral Scholars, gold for Handbell Scholars) and submit it with your contribution to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org)

Luther Year Community Choir

Join us for the Luther Year Community Choir event, part of Zion's Luther Quincentennial Celebration! This event is synod-wide, as we are inviting 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.

Those who wish to rehearse in a group setting may join us in the Sanctuary on Thursdays 7-8PM through the month of August. Rehearsals with Dr. Highben will be Friday, Sept. 22 (evening rehearsal, time TBD), Saturday, Sept. 23 (morning and afternoon rehearsals with a lunch break in between), and Sunday, Sept. 24 (before the 4PM concert). Zion Lutheran has commissioned Dr. Highben to compose a choral piece for this 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and the choir will premiere the composition at the concert.

To register to sing in this event, contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org) or call the church at (734) 994-4455. For more information on Dr. Highben, please visit his website: <http://www.zebulonhighben.com/>.

Blessing of the Pets is August 20



On August 20 at the 8:30AM Drive-In Service, we will have a blessing of the pets and animals. Bring your pet for a blessing. Christians understand the importance of prayer and that we

should offer prayers on behalf of everyone, especially those whom we love. We believe it is a good thing to pray for our pets that loyally give us love, peace and joy.

Blessing of the Backpacks is August 27

Children, youth and adults are invited to bring their bags for a blessing at all service on August 27. Everyone will receive an ID tag that will remind you that God goes with you to school or work and that the Holy Spirit works through you to bless others. The tag reminds us that, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."



Mission Core Ministry

Blavin Scholars

It is time to start thinking about back-to-school donations for the Blavin Scholars students. Blavin Scholars is a program at the University of Michigan for students who were in Foster Care at any point in their childhood. Most of these students come to school with no supplies and are worried about not having sheets to sleep on.

Item collection continues at all three services through August 16. You can also drop things off during the week—just please label them "Blavin Scholars" and place them in the Youth Room. Items needed include:

- Laundry detergent/Tide pods
- Dryer sheets
- Clorox wipes
- Sets of bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths
- Bed pillow
- Notebooks and pens
- Non-perishable snacks
- Febreze
- Hangers
- Umbrellas
- Large fleece blankets (at least twin size)
- Twin XL sheets

Don't want to go shopping? That is totally fine! Check and cash donations will be accepted. Please make checks out to Zion Lutheran, with Blavin Scholars in the note section! Thanks in advance. If you have any questions you can contact Kristi Galis, kegallis@umich.edu.

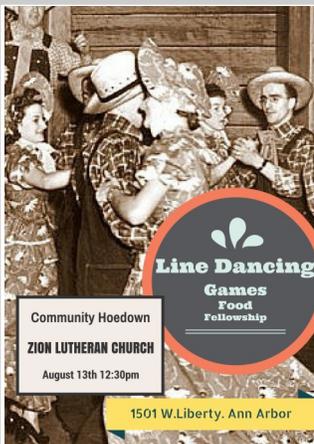
Living Hope Haiti Construction Update



Last year, Zion "kick-started" this important addition to the Primary School classrooms. Your donations paid for the first two rooms, but since then there have been additional generous donations to enable the complete 2nd floor of the Primary school classrooms (see picture). What a huge blessing this is for Living Hope Ministries. Mary Jane and Andris Jolibois are planning on opening the trade school in the mornings and afternoons this coming fall due to this addition, since it enabled the primary schools classrooms to have dedicated space, instead of sharing with the Trade School classrooms. Keep watching the *Tower* and announcements for an upcoming trip to Haiti in October or November this year. We're working on assembling a team now. Contact: Mark Gunderson, MLGondo@comcast.net.

Young Discipleship

Community Hoedown



The Zion Youth Group will be throwing a community hoedown located on the front lawn of the Church on Sunday August 13 at 12:30PM. This will be a perfect time to show our community what God is doing in our congregation, and to share His love with the people around us. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to come and check us out! There will be games and activities for all ages, good food, and great fellowship. And of course music with line dancing lessons lead by a professional line dance caller!

The youth group will also use this as an opportunity to give out information and let the congregation know what we have planned for the year, including fun activities, service, fundraising and highlighting this year's youth trip to Houston, Texas for the 2018 ELCA

National Youth Gathering! 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will gather for a week of faith formation. The week is spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship. Young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

If you have any questions or would want to volunteer to help with the community hoedown please email Nathan D'Andrea at ndandrea@zlc-aa.org or feel free to call Zion's office (994-4455).



Summer Connect



Hey guys! Every Wednesday, students 6th-12th grade are welcome to come hangout at Zion! We will be playing games, Basketball, gaga ball, Trash Ball, listening to music, barbequing, and just hanging out. We will meet on Wednesdays from 4-5PM, rain or shine, for the remainder of the summer!

Congregation Council

Council Meeting June 20, 2017—Highlights

Financial Report

- **Cash** Available cash at the end of May was \$225,440. Cash in the operations account as of 6/16/17 is approximately \$225,000. We currently have sufficient cash on hand for the foreseeable future.
- **Income** For the month of May contributions were \$59,234, which was \$16,763 less than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$79,904 in May last year. YTD, contributions are \$1,403 more than budgeted, and \$11,701 more than YTD last year.
- **Expenses** Two ministries were over budget in May. One ministry is over budget YTD. Overall spending was \$10,774 under budget for the month. Spending is \$59,330 under budget YTD.
- **YTD Attendance and Offering** (through May 31)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Attendance (YTD)	7,206	7,547	(341)
-Including Bibleland	8,504	8,873	(369)
Offering (YTD)	\$354,037	\$342,336	\$11,701
Offering per Person	\$49.13	\$45.36	\$3.77

Refugee Committee Update

Marilyn Granner gave an update about the Refugee Committee's work. Zion's group is part of a larger coalition called Washtenaw Refugee Welcome. We are working to support refugees after the 90 days of help have passed. We are now connected to a family and Marilyn described the family and some of the issues they are facing.

The committee has come to Council for affirmation for working with this family. Marilyn suggested the Refugee Committee would walk with this family for the next 6 months and then reevaluate. The committee has also been keeping Mission Core Ministry informed, because this committee falls under the umbrella of the MCM. Council approved support of this mission.

Solar Power and Energy Audit

Dan explained that he talked with B&G about the audit they'd started, which subsequently stalled. Carrie asked Clean Energy Coalition in Ann Arbor (a non-profit) if there was a way to get an energy audit at cost or can we get a grant for it. DTE was another option, but the audit they offer is less comprehensive. This issue is now for Buildings and Grounds to follow up on. Dan will report back when he hears more from B&G.

Handbell Scholars

Natalie Downs has proposed that in addition to choral scholars, we add a couple of handbell scholars to enhance the handbell choir. Members of the handbell choir proposed this and are enthusiastic about it. She proposes

the cost for the two handbell scholars would be \$700 for the fall semester and \$700 for the winter semester, a total of \$1400 for two students (\$700 per student, note that choral scholar program is \$1600 per student). Natalie is suggesting we'd recruit from Concordia University. Council granted approval to fundraise for these scholarships.

Bequest Funding Transfers

We have two bequests that were received May 30 and June 5. Our policy is that 10% of undesignated bequests go toward mission. The remaining 90%, which is \$4453.44, is now in the Pending Designation account, and Council discussed where that money should go. During the discussion, the sense of the group is that we should invite Mission Core Ministry to a future Council meeting so we can learn more about their funding decisions, budget, and process. Council approved moving the \$4453.44 in Pending Designation to the Pastor's discretionary fund.

Housing Allowance

Some of the compensation of the pastors is specifically for housing. It is noted in the church's budget this way. The housing allowance portion of compensation can be sheltered from taxation as long as it's appropriately documented for IRS purposes. The housing allowance records for Pastors Debner and Lovell are now on file if we're ever audited. The secretary (Laura Berry) now has a copy of these documents as part of official records of the church.

Water Upgrades

Zion has larger water lines for fire suppression, but the city never improved their water supply lines. We recently failed a water pressure test. The city has realized that this is on them and has prioritized us. Side street entrances to Zion will be torn up until end of August; the only way in and out will be via Liberty St.

¹ *This is what the Lord says:
"Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.
⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord
to minister to him,
to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations."*

- Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

From Pastor Jim

New Ministry Programs

This month Zion's leadership are finalizing plans for the fall programming. This is my first fall here at Zion that a full staff is working and planning for Zion's ministry and mission. Did you just hear me exhale? I'm also smiling from ear to ear. I am so thankful for so many that worked so long and so hard to find the right people that fit with our ministry vision. It was worth the wait.

New staff means that new ministry programs will be implemented in the coming months. Be sure to read Pr. Vicky's article below that speaks to some of those coming changes. We are still working on the Strategic Plan, with a hope that by fall we will have something to share with the congregation. We have valued the work the Vision Committee did and the vision they cast, as we look forward to the year 2022.

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the
meaning of life!



We are also working on bringing back the Alpha Course. This video-based study is a practical introduction to the Christian faith. This program was offered at Zion back in 2008 and we will be using it again as an entry point for discipleship at Zion. This challenge will also be offered for anyone at Zion interested in growth. There are 15 talks over ten weeks that ask essential questions: *Who is Jesus? How can I be sure of my faith? How does God guide us? How can I resist evil? What does the Holy Spirit do? And how can I make the most of my life?* Join us as we look for answers to questions about life and God and how they relate.

A new program this fall will help us learn how to share our story of what God has done in our lives. When you share your story, you are pointing people to the ultimate Storyteller. We all love to tell stories, but when it comes to telling our faith story we seem to be at a loss for words. Together we will learn and practice telling our story. Remember, your story matters to God, to the church and to the world around us. When we share what God has done in our lives, we bring God glory and encourage those around us.

Speaking of something new, each month staff and leaders at Zion will write a devotional. It will be something that inspired or challenged their faith. The first of these is on the front page of this issue of the *Tower*.

I am so excited about this fall and the amazing ministry that the staff and leadership of Zion will be implementing. The Holy Spirit is moving among us, calling, pushing and prodding us to faithful discipleship. Joining Jesus in mission is not always comfortable or easy. Yet the Spirit of God will give us the courage, the strength, the wisdom and the will to do what must be done in the name of our living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Pastor Vicky's Corner

August, wow! I have officially hit the one-year mark of being at Zion. What a wonderful, whirlwind of a year it has been, so full of blessings and excitement. Now on to planning for next year and seeing what's up God's sleeve for Zion!

Pastor Jim and I are settling into our partnership quite well. We are heading down to Atlanta for a Rostered Leaders Conference from August 7-10 to grow professionally with clergy from all over the country. In addition, we are taking an online leadership course together to ensure that we are staying relevant in our approach to church leadership. We made a commitment to pray regularly for each of you and to be active in our study of the Word as we seek God's direction for our wonderful congregation. And, finally, we encourage each other every day to focus on our own self-care so we can be healthy pastors in mind, body and spirit! That's a good start, don't you think?

Since the majority of my professional experience has been in the world of education, I will be overseeing much of the educational programming at Zion. I've met with the Adult Discipleship team and we are excited about the classes that will be offered this fall during our Sunday Education Hour, including excellent classes to go along with our Reformation Celebration and additional studies on various books of the Bible [see **Adult Discipleship** on page 6 for more information].

The Youth Discipleship team will be making some final decisions on curriculum to be used beginning this fall. We are exploring ways to use the Sunday Education Hour most effectively so students of all ages, teachers, and parents can learn and grow in their faith. Also, we have a whole new curriculum for Confirmation that I am extremely excited about rolling out! We are revamping and breathing new life into our entire program, so look for details coming soon.

That's some of the planning going on around Zion this summer. So how about you? How have you connected with Jesus lately? What are you doing to grow in mind, body and spirit? I am excited to grow along with you!

Happy Summer!

Adult Discipleship

Adult Education Classes Beginning September 2017

Bible Study on 1 & 2 Peter

This fall, on Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1 during the Faith Formation hour a Bible Study on 1 & 2 Peter will be offered. The book of First Peter is a word to those who are suffering. Paul gives advice to those who are suffering persecution. Should Christians flee or resist? Should Christians tone down their outward signs of faith? Paul gives clear advice to Christians who are suffering. Come learn about the struggles of the early church and what it could mean for us today.

Second Peter was written to remind readers that the worst dangers aren't always from the outside, but from within the church community. Second Peter calls for a return to the true gospel, and warns against the common pitfalls that endanger the church. This book is about hope in the coming Day of the Lord. It spoke to the low morale of early Christians and of the faithful today.

Time: 10:10-11:00

Place Classroom C

Teacher: Pastor Jim and Pastor Vicky

Video Series on the Reformation

Zion will also continue to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther's reformation with a series of events planned for this fall. Throughout the month of September during the Faith Formation hour on Sundays, we will be showing the remaining four videos from the "Reformation Roots" series that will explore the Reformation as it spread across Europe after Luther. The video on Sunday, Sept. 10 will focus on Calvin, Zwingli and the Anabaptists; the video on Sunday Sept. 17 will deal with the Radical Reformation; on Sunday, Sept. 24 the English Reformation will be examined; and finally, on Sunday, Oct. 1, the Catholic Reformation will be featured.

Time: 10:10-11:00

Place: Piper Hall

Moderator & Host: Prof. Charles Schulz, from Concordia University

Thursday Midweek Bible Study - 1 Corinthians

Please mark your calendars and join us for our Thursday Bible study beginning September 14! In this year of our Reformation celebration we are selecting another epistle that was instrumental for Martin Luther and the Reformation: 1 Corinthians. This is a fascinating epistle where St. Paul addresses such issues as the "Lord's Supper," (this is the earliest biblical record of Jesus' Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion, as this Epistle predates the Gospels), the question of "spiritual gifts," the image of the church as the "Body of Christ," the famous "Love Chapter," (1 Corinthians 13), Paul's most thorough discussion of the "resurrection," plus much more.

We meet Thursday afternoons, 1:30 - 3PM (with a break in between for some goodies!) beginning September 14, 2017, and we will conclude on November 16, 2017, the Thursday before Thanksgiving. We have outgrown the Omega Room and we now meet in the Gathering area at the south end of the second floor. We would love to have you join with us! These sessions will be led by Pastor Walt Schmidt.

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- Matthew 14:13-21

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.
¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

- Matthew 15:10-28

Member Caring Ministry

Reformation Celebration Movie Event

David Granner welcomes you to a special movie event on the theme of Grace:

Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World!

Don't miss this special event! Imagine 1,000 people singing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Let's bring all Christians together to celebrate the historic 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

The Historic Michigan Theater

603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Friday, October 27th, 2017

6:30—7PM: Beverages & Popcorn with live music by Today's Brass Quintet

7—7:15PM: Hymn singing accompanied by organ, brass, choir, and Today's Brass Quintet

7:15PM: Screening of the feature film begins

IMPORTANT: Space is limited. All tickets are complimentary and must be secured in advance. Tickets may be reserved at the special website: <http://bit.ly/2lvruPX> (note: "2" is the only number in this link, the rest are letters), or by calling Lydia Bahensky at 734-996-8811.

If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact Natalie Downs at ndowns@zlc-aa.org. There will be a rehearsal at the Michigan Theatre before the event. Details coming soon.

Women's Bible Study —

"Love Lives Here"

"Love Lives Here" women's bible study will be meeting July 30 at 6:30PM with snacks and August 19 at 10:30AM for brunch. All meetings are at Barbara Debner's house. We are visiting both old and New Testament passages that focus on living loved. For more information, email babdebner@gmail.com.

Reformation Events

We invite you to check out these Reformation-related events being hosted by Zion this fall:

- A multi-choir choral concert on September 24 [see page 2]
- A Community Service Day at Island Park on September 30
- A screening of the film *Luther* at the Michigan Theater on October 27
- An ecumenical prayer service on October 28
- A one-day conference on Luther and Lutheranism in the 21st Century on November 11
- Sunday morning classes on the Protestant Reformation

For a complete schedule, visit www.zlc-aa.org.

Step By Step

August schedule for this women's walking group (weather permitting):

- Tuesday August 15, 7PM - Gallup Park. We will meet at the canoe livery and playground.
- Sunday August 20, 1:30 PM - Walking from Zion. We will meet at the front steps.
- Saturday August 26, 10AM - Dexter Walking Trail, meeting at the Dexter library lot.

The Brunch on September 30 has been canceled. Most walks take just over an hour. It's important that walkers email babdebner@gmail.com in advance, so we can watch and wait for each other.

Parish Nurses Report

Zion staff received American Heart Association training in Family and Friends CPR June 27th. The instructor reminded us that not everyone knows that Zion has an AED, nor where it is located. But if someone collapses from a cardiac arrest, the best chance for that person's survival is the use of the AED to shock the heart. And, in case of such an emergency, everyone should know where to find this device.

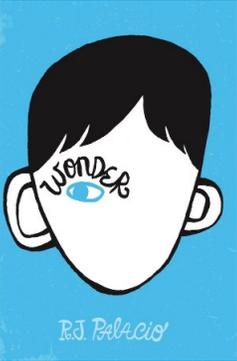
The AED at Zion is located just outside the Welcome Center in the corridor to the office area. It is on the wall, clearly marked, opposite the Sacristy and Library. Should you need it, just open the AED door, and do not be frightened when the alarm goes off. The alarm itself summons help! Right next to the AED is a telephone that will let you call 911 immediately to summon a rescue squad!

The instructor advised us that it takes about seven exposures to information before we really remember it! So we plan to run this report about once a month for the next six months, to help ensure that everyone at Zion in all three services would be able to retrieve our AED when needed. It is extra insurance for all of us!

Member Caring Ministry (cont.)

Life's Lessons Among the Leaves

Are you a reader? Have you attended a book discussion? You are officially invited to participate! During the month of October a fun, active Zion book club (called LLATL, or Life's Lesson Among the Leaves) encourages you to read with us.



We will be reading the amazing fictional novel *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. Readers of all ages (male and female) who have enjoyed this touching book are invited to an upbeat discussion at Zion Lutheran on Nov. 7 at 7PM in Stelhorn Lounge. We will finish our conversations about Auggie and his adventures before 8:15. There will also be a free drawing for a special movie pass. Arrive on time, bring your book and share your favorite part. Addie Lovell and Barbara

Debner have agreed to lead this exciting event. RSVP to babdebner@gmail.com by October 24, so we have enough treats to share.

The movie release of *Wonder* starring Julia Roberts will be this November at local theaters. Read the book first; because the book is always better. Come share your thoughts. And then find a new friend to see this enjoyable movie *Wonder*.

OKTOBERFEST

Friday, September 29th - 5 to 9 PM

It was nearly 500 years ago—October 31, 1517, to be exact—that a German monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 theological statements for public debate. On September 29, Zion Lutheran Church is inviting the congregation and neighbors, not to debate those points, but to celebrate Martin Luther's "German-ness"—and Zion's own German heritage—at an Oktoberfest.

In keeping with tradition, the celebration will feature a German band, an accordionist, and group singing. A ticket-only dinner catered by Metzger's Restaurant and served from 5 to 8:30PM will feature knockwurst, bratwurst, spatzel, sauerkraut, German potato salad and more. In addition, craft beers such as Reformation Ale, Oktoberfest Brew, and Reverend Fred's Oatmeal Stout—all created specially for the occasion by Dragonmead Brewery—will be available at a cash bar.

Meal tickets (\$15 for adults 13 and up, \$10 for children 6 to 12, free for children 5 and under) must be purchased by September 25 at the church office (M-F) or on Sunday morning between 8AM and noon in the church Welcome Center.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the Oktoberfest!

Samaritas News

Affordable Living Facilities

Samaritas, your Lutheran agency with the motto of "serving people with the love of Christ", operates a large number of facilities around the state. This month, we focus on some of the affordable living facilities that are operated by Samaritas. In Monroe, the Affordable Living of Monroe (formerly Village Pines) facility was completely renovated (completed in January 2017) at a cost of \$15 million using tax credit financing. The facility includes 190 apartments. Similar facilities are operated in Adrian (Affordable Living Adrian, renovated in 2013) and Lansing (Alison House). Most of the apartments are for low-income families or for persons with physical disabilities, with or without a care-giver. In many cases, rents for the facilities are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, although continuation of this funding is uncertain, and residents pay a significant amount themselves. These facilities can also serve low-income seniors, and are an important part of Samaritas' effort to keep seniors in their own stable housing as long as possible, rather than transitioning into nursing or other care facilities.

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

- Matthew 16:13-20

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) Update

One of the roles which LLMs fulfill in our synod – though not the only one – is leading worship on Sunday mornings. I was blessed to lead worship at all 3 services on May 21 at Zion. This included preaching a sermon, giving a children's message, and presiding at Holy Communion – with written permission from our bishop. For the middle and late services, I also prepared slides to be projected on the screen as part of the sermon. What a joy it was! I have served as assisting minister many times at Zion, and it felt a little weird speaking the parts of the liturgy where I am used to being silent and responding. As Lutherans, we teach that it is God's actions and words that make the bread and wine into Holy Communion, not the faith or worthiness of the person presiding; that was a very joy-filled and humbling experience. At the 11:11 service, we honored the high school seniors with a video montage and a skit, and also bade a fond farewell to Kahle Strickland, who has been a part of the Praise Band for years. Worship leadership is something I enjoy, and hope to do again in the next 12 months or so.

More than 25 congregations in the SE MI synod have pastoral vacancies, and many of those congregations do not have the budget support to call a full-time person as pastor. LLMs are helping with several such congregations, and I am open to helping lead worship at other congregations in our area. Many of the current LLMs live in Wayne or Macomb counties, and I think that we also have needs in Washtenaw, Livingston, and Lenawee counties.

On May 13, I started my latest class as part of the LLM program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA. We're scheduled to meet at different times over the summer, with the regular class schedule resuming in September.

– Dale Eckart

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

- Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 1

- 9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 5:30 PM Personnel Meeting/Church office
- 7:00 PM Building and Grounds/Creation Station
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 2

- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
- 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, August 3

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, August 4 (Office closes 12:00)

Saturday, August 5

Sunday, August 6

- 8:30 AM First Light Worship/Outdoors
- 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
- 9:30 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

Monday, August 7

- 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, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 9

- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
- 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, August 10

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
- 7:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, August 11 (Office closes 12:00)

Saturday, August 12

Sunday, August 13

- 8:30 AM First Light Worship/Outdoors

- 9:30 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
- 12:00 PM Community Hoedown/Front Yard
- 1:00 PM Eckart Bridal Shower/The Gathering

Monday, August 14

- 6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Tuesday, August 15

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 16

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
- 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, August 17

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 5:00 PM Compassionate Communication/Creation Station & Gathering
- 7:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, August 18 (office closes 12:00)

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/Creation Station & Gathering

Saturday, August 19

- 8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/Creation Station & Gathering
- 10:30 AM Love Lives Here/Debner's home

Sunday, August 20

- 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, August 21

- 6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 6:00 PM Claire Agresta Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Group/Alpha Room

Tuesday, August 22

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry/Church Office
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 23

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
- 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, August 24

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, August 25 (office closes 12:00)

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere

Saturday, August 26

- 10:00 AM Staff Fall Planning Meeting/The Gathering
- 5:00 PM Jeoff Klem Concert/Sanctuary

Sunday, August 27

- 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
- 6:00 PM Claire Agresta Concert/Sanctuary

Monday, August 28

- 6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 8:00 AM AA Public School Training/Hall & Kitchen
- 9:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Tuesday, August 29

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 8:00 AM AA Public School Training/Hall & Kitchen
- 9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study/Pr. Vicky's office
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 30

- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 8:30 AM AA Public Schools Training/Hall & Kitchen
- 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
- 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, August 31

- 7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
- 7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Summer Camp/Everywhere
- 2:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
- 7:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 436
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Return Service Requested

Date Sensitive Material
Please Deliver by
August 1, 2017

July Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: *Martin Kent Beyer, parents Taylor & Emily Byer*
WEDDINGS:
FUNERALS:
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, Jill Goldstein

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	Vicky Lovell
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Youth Discipleship Leader / Family Life Ministry Coordinator	Nathan D'Andrea
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 Givers	Kaili Dence, Anna Dupke Lizzy Peters
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.