

The Tower

September 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.



September Focus Statement

COFFEE - Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere

With all of the excitement of the new school year upon us, here is a devotion about new beginnings from the "Our Daily Bread" website (<https://odb.org/2014/04/12/new-beginnings/>). It's written by Marvin Williams. Enjoy!
- Pr Vicky

*Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth;
shall you not know it? —Isaiah 43:19*

New beginnings are possible. Just ask Brayan, a young man who joined a gang in elementary school. Brayan ran away when he was 12 years old, and for 3 years was lost in gang and drug life. Although he left the gang and returned home, it was difficult for him, as he had been expelled from school for selling drugs. When he enrolled in a new high school, however, a teacher inspired and encouraged him to write about his experiences rather than repeat them. He embraced the challenge and is now experiencing a fresh start.

God, through the prophet Isaiah, encouraged Jewish exiles to think about a new beginning as well. God said, "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old" (Isa. 43:18). He told them to stop dwelling on their punishment and even on His display of power through the original exodus from Egypt. He wanted their attention to be focused on God who would give them a new beginning by bringing them home from Babylon through a new exodus (v.19).

With God, new beginnings are possible in our hearts. He can help us to let go of the past and start clinging to Him. Relationship with Him provides a new hope for all who will trust Him.

*Lord, we need Your touch on our lives.
Work in our hearts in whatever areas need
a fresh start. Help us to do our part and to
trust You to do what only You can do.*



Strategic Plan

Zion's Council has been working all summer on a Strategic Plan with Rev. Mike Ward which will carry Zion's ministry focus through 2020. The intention of this Strategic Ministry Vision is to live into Zion's Purpose Statement, Core Values and Vision Statement. During this 3-year period, we will intentionally discern the next "big project" for Zion. Our Guiding Biblical Verse is from Matthew 25:40—"What you have done to one of the least of these, you have done unto me."

The proposed strategic plan focuses on the Vision Statement's three areas: Education, Worship and Service, plus a fourth area, Leadership Development. Pastor Vicky will lead the ministry result areas in Education and Service. Pastor Jim will be leading the ministry result areas of Worship and Leadership Development. Goals and Objectives for each ministry area are being formulated. The proposed Strategic Plan will be shared with elected leaders and the congregation this fall. We will need everyone to participate in meeting our goals and living into our objectives. Stay tuned, it's very close to being ready for the final discussion and implementation phase.

Zion's Anniversaries

September 2018 will mark the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of our present building. We will want to mark this anniversary with a celebration next year. If you are interested in being part of a celebration planning team, please call the church office.

2017 marks the 142nd year of Zion as a congregation. That means that in eight years Zion will celebrate 150 years. That seems like a long time, but it will be here quickly, so now is the time to begin planning. More importantly, now is the time to record memories of members who have stories to share about ministry through the years and of the old church downtown. We would like to assemble a video team that would interview members and record the conversations. We want to capture the voices of our beloved saints before those voices are gone. Our hope is that some of the stories could be edited into a 150th Anniversary Video. If you would like to be part of the interview team or would be willing to be interviewed, or know someone that should be interviewed, please contact the church office.

Worship Core Ministry

Calling All Musicians!

It's a great time to join a music ensemble this fall at Zion. *Rehearsals start 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. Our next outing will be at Silver Maples in Chelsea on Friday, September 22 at 2PM. Rehearsal in Music Room 1B at 12:30PM. All are welcome to participate! Interested in joining? 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.

Rehearsals with Dr. Highben will be in the Sanctuary Friday, Sept. 22 (7-9PM), Saturday, Sept. 23 (9AM-noon and 1:30-4PM), 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. More information on Dr. Highben, may be found on his website: <http://www.zebulonhighben.com/>.

September Lectionary

- Sept 3** Jeremiah 15:15-21, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28
- Sept 10** Ezekiel 33:7-11, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20
- Sept 17** Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35
- Sept 24** Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Zion Choral Scholars Program

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

At this time, we are looking for monetary contributions for the scholarship programs for the new 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 the 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).

Zion Concert Series

2017-2018 Season

Don't miss these exciting concerts coming to Zion! Unless otherwise noted, all are in the Sanctuary with a free-will offering.

Luther Community Choir
Sunday, September 24th at 4PM

University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society
Sunday, November 5th, 2017 at 4PM

Chamber Concert presented by the Community Music School of Ann Arbor
Sunday, January 28th at 4PM

David Troiano, organ recital
Sunday, February 25th at 4PM

Achievers Women's Choir from the Detroit School for the Arts
Saturday, March 18th at 4PM

Wartburg College Choir
Monday, April 23rd at 7PM

Young Discipleship

Bibleland Is Going Orange!

We kick off Bibleland on September 10 at 10:10AM upstairs in the Gathering for ages Kindergarten—5th grade! The preschoolers—Young 5's will meet in the Ark.

Bibleland is changing things up this year! We're moving away from *Faith Inkubators* to *Think Orange 252*. We had been using the last curriculum for 10 years or so, and it was time for a change!

You might ask – Why Orange? Orange is a strategy. Church is yellow (light of Church), home is red (Heart of Family) and when you work together you get Orange! If you'd like to check it out, here's the website: www.thinkorange.com.

Orange 252 is based from Luke 2:52 *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.”* Orange 252's three basic truths are:

- Wisdom – I need to make the wise choice.
- Faith – I can trust God no matter what.
- Friendship – I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

The lessons each week go along with a monthly theme and these themes are relevant to every day, with a Bible verse base. Our first month we'll be learning about “Friendship” and each week the kids learn a different Bible verse that pertains to the theme. Plus, every week parents will receive a God time card that they take home. There is even an app that is free to download called *Parent Cue!* Check it out – the app can help you navigate some of the hard questions, give you reminders and even a Bible verse to read with your child – all the way up through high school! We encourage you to download it!

Confirmation News

We are rolling out a brand new curriculum and format for Confirmation this year and, boy, are we excited! If you have a child entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade, plan to join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, September 17th at 12:15PM in the Youth Room. Questions? Contact Pastor Vicky Lovell at vlovell@zlc-aa.org.

Bibleland and Youth Ministry Service Opportunities

Bibleland needs volunteers! If any of these service opportunities interest you, please contact Nina Johnson at njohnson@zlc-aa.org.

- Set Creators – Ready for some fun for the whole family? Once a month we need creative minds to design a set in The Gathering to go along with the monthly theme.
- Material preparers – Do you have 1-2 hours a week to assist our Bible Land director, Nina Johnson, in organizing props and materials for each classroom? This might be for you!
- Mentor – How can you impact a child the most? Be a mentor! This gives you a chance to meet a child, pray with and for that child, and become a spiritual support system in that child's life.

In addition, Zion's Youth Ministry team is looking for adults to serve and build relationships to help encourage students to become passionate followers of Jesus. There are a few areas of service we need, and each of them fit different personalities. These areas include Small Group Leader, set designers, worship musicians, and adult leaders to help with special events and service opportunities such as mission trips, Spring Hill, and the National Youth Gathering. All material for each area of service would be provided; your main focus would be loving and encouraging youth of all ages to see Christ in their everyday life. If you feel a calling to help, please reach out for more information or with any questions to Youth Discipleship Leader Nathan D'Andrea (Office: 734-994-4455, Cell: 313-848-9434, ndandrea@zlc-aa.org).

Kickoff to Sunday Middle School and High School Programs!

We are kicking off the school year September 10th at 10:10AM! High School students can attend “Caffeine & Christ” and Middle School Students can join in at J.A.M! Time will be spent with some service opportunities, a game, and a lesson for the week, followed up with some group chat.

We will be using the new Orange Curriculum for all Middle and High School students. This curriculum is specifically designed to touch three areas of the student's life: Wonder, Discovery, and Passion. It also is a great tool in bridging the gap from Church to home and everyday life, really showing students how the word is pertinent to not just the current world, but to each and every one of them and what is happening in their daily life. We are so excited to launch this new curriculum, and to have every student from cradle to college on the same path!

Every Sunday night, Grace Place will take place for all High School students grades 9-12. We will meet from 4:30-6PM in the Youth Room. The time will be spent playing games, hanging out, and fellowshiping for the first half hour, followed by worship, with a short message based off of the monthly Orange series. We will finish the evening with some time spent in small groups with a leader talking about the message from the day and how it relates to our everyday lives. This is going to be the perfect way to grow in relationships with our fellows and our creator, and have a group of likeminded people to “do life with.” Please note on Sept. 17, we will have a combined HS/MS event at 4:30PM: Paint War [see page 11 for full fall youth calendar].



Congregation Council

Council Meeting July 25, 2017—Highlights

Financial Report

- Cash - Cash in the operations account as of 7/7/17 is approximately \$219,000, sufficient cash on hand for the foreseeable future.
- Income – For the month of June, contributions were \$77,893 which was \$16,308 more than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$59,777 in June last year. YTD, contributions are \$17,711 more than budgeted, and \$29,817 more than YTD last year.
- Expenses – Overall spending was \$5,273 under budget for the month. Spending is \$64,603 under budget YTD.
- Attendance and Offering (through June 30)

	2017	2016	Variance
Attendance (YTD)	8,374	8,504	(130)
-Including Bibleland	9,672	9,830	(158)
Offering (YTD)	\$431,930	\$402,113	\$29,817
Offering per Person	\$51.58	\$47.29	\$4.29

A discussion ensued regarding the confusion of the pledge for 2017. At the time the member pledges were requested a list of five missions where identified. It was brought to our attention that people thought they could designate which of these missions that they could directly fund. This was a misunderstanding. The pledge monies go directly to the general benevolence fund and then out of the general fund, monies are distributed to those five missions. If there is desire to give directly to any mission, that would require a separate check to Zion and memo line filled out to show that mission. It was suggested that the five missions have their own line items in the financial report. We will revisit this at the fiscal year end.

Strategic Planning Update:

Dan reported that a Strategic Planning Meeting had occurred just before this meeting and it was a good meeting and Mike Ward will revise the plan and then Council can take this to the congregation [see page 1 for more].

Endowment Expenditures

Endowment Committee proposed the description and requirements of the Mission Endowment Fund for Council approval. Discussions centered around the core amount proposed of \$100,000, which committee would be in charge of designating the funds, how long it may be before there would be monies available. Council approved establishing Mission Endowment Fund as described by the Committee.

Stewardship Pledges

After previous discussion regarding the misunderstanding the 2017 pledge drive created, Council determined the next pledge drive must be more intentional and clearly defined.

Limited License for Alcohol

Dan explained that we will be having an Oktoberfest on September 29. Dragonmead Brewery will supply the beer. We need a resolution for a limited use alcohol license. Council approved a motion to apply for a limited use alcohol license.

Special Request from Building and Grounds

A special meeting was held by Building and Grounds because bids for the Memorial Garden and the South Entrance construction project had come in over budget. The total project at this time is \$250,000. A donation of \$100,000 has been made and Council has approved expenditures of \$75,000 from the Vogel Fund. B&G is requesting an additional \$75,000 from the Vogel Fund for a total of \$150,000. Council approved an additional \$75,000 from the Vogel fund for this project [see below for more].

Memorial Garden Update

Good News! Both the Memorial Garden columbarium addition and the renovation of the south entry projects are underway. Our contract with Jess Spike of Construction Design Services, an Ann Arbor company, has been signed. The Building and Grounds Committee offered to supplement our funds from the Vogel Bequest, and Council approved, so all the funding is in place for both construction projects.

Ground breaking is scheduled for the week of September 11th, with completion by the end of October. Inch Memorial of Northville plans to install the columbarium units in mid-October. Our architect, Scott McElrath of Dangerous Architects, Chelsea, will supervise both projects. The builder has promised to do his best to minimize the disruption, but please be aware that use of both the south and Garden entrances will be very limited in September and October.

In the meantime, Kent Peterson is working with us to prepare a small Memorial Garden area just inside the building at the Garden entrance. He will be building a shelf to hold the Memorial Books for easier viewing, plus a case for the display of the original model of the Good Shepherd statue.

Please remember that the deadline for the purchase of memory bricks is September 15, for placement yet this fall. We will also be ready to accept purchases of columbarium interments by mid September. We expect that purchasers will be able to select their niches at that time.

Look for another update in the October *Tower*, and more frequent updates if needed in the Sunday bulletins.

From Pastor Jim

Tough Love

I read an interesting story recently, *Play The Man* written by Mark Batterson, that speaks to some of the issues of racism and bigotry. In 1992, a grand dragon in the Ku Klux Klan made the news. For years, Larry Trapp terrorized a Jewish leader in his community named Michael Weisser, making death threats against him and his synagogue. Then one day Larry tore up his Nazi flags, destroyed his hate literature, and renounced the KKK. Why? Because when Larry Trapp was dying of a diabetes-related kidney disease and unable to care for himself, Michael Weisser took him into his home and cared for him. "He showed me so much love," said Larry Trapp, "That I could not help but love [him] back."

Wow, that is tough love! I don't know if I could do that! Fulfilling Jesus' command to "Love your enemies" is easy to say but tough to do. Tough love is loving others when they least expect it and least deserve it. The gospel's message is about a tough love that conquers all—God's tough love for us. Where does this kind of love need to be planted in your life? Where or who needs tough love planted by your words, actions, or faithfulness?

Every week God gives us tough love in worship and Holy Communion. Communion allows us to begin the week with open hands, as we receive the Body of Christ. It allows us to practice letting go and letting in. Communion is a way that God let's grace and tough love slip into our lives week after week.

Speaking of worship, we tried some new things this summer to help us stay on time. We realize that the Sunday Morning fall schedule needs to begin and end on time. We have cut out announcements and will only show service opportunities on the screen and in printed inserts, reminding all of us how we can be involved in living out God's tough love with our neighbors.

We are also beginning some new things and bringing back some old things. This month there will be a celebration of music for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Zion had new choir music composed for this celebration, and the composer will also be directing the community choir [see page 2 for more]. We will also have our annual Oktoberfest outside with a beer garden and German food catered by John Metzger and his restaurant. Tickets will go on sale soon, look for them and volunteer to work, we needs lots of helping hands [see page 9 for more].

Pastor Vicky's Corner

New Beginnings

September...this is a month that brings many new beginnings: the start of the school year, the first day of autumn, college football games, and let's not forget the kick-off to Zion's Educational Year! On Sunday, September 10th, we will launch another year of wonderful educational opportunities for all ages during our education hour held between the second and third services each Sunday. Mark your calendars and plan to join us from 10:10 -11:10 AM each Sunday morning. There is something offered for every member of the family! Take advantage of these classes. Heck, I just spent years in seminary paying big bucks for this knowledge and it's offered absolutely free to you each week right here at church!

Check out the offerings that the Adult Core Ministry has put together to ensure that you are growing in biblical knowledge as well as enjoying all of the classes revolving around the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation [see page 6 for more]. There's even a Luther impersonator coming on November 12th!! Who knew that even existed?

All students from preschool through high school will engage in a fantastic curriculum called Orange [see page 3 for more]. If you'd like to learn more, go to www.thinkorange.com. Three special people have gone above and beyond to learn this new curriculum so our students will benefit the most: Barbara Debner (Preschool), Nina Johnson (Elementary) and Nathan D'Andrea (Middle/High School). There are lots of ways to get involved in the life of our children. Think about who touched your life as a child. Maybe God is tapping you to be that person for a child this year. Get involved!

This is going to be a super year! Take advantage of it. Choose to participate, learn new things, grow in your knowledge, serve in a new way, share your faith with others, and step out of your comfort zone. Maybe, just maybe, God has some wonderful, unexpected blessings waiting for you! Make this your year!

Adult Discipleship

Adult Education Classes Beginning September 2017

Bible Study on 1 & 2 Peter

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.

Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 10:10-11AM; Classroom C
Teachers: Pastor Jim and Pastor Vicky

Video Series on the Reformation

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.

Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 10:10-11AM; Piper Hall
Moderator & Host: Prof. Charles Schulz, from Concordia University

Learning to Share Your Story of Redemption

In the August *Tower*, we began to describe a new program that 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.

A new class on learning to create and share your story of redemption begins this month. This is a five week class that will lead you through not only how to write your story but also how to share it. God is calling us from our silence, to find our voice and be prepared for when God calls us to speak. The class will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30PM for five weeks beginning on Sept. 6. We will meet in the church office around the big table.

- 9/6 – The Power of Story, Your Story.
- 9/13 – The Past Prepares Us for the Future
- 9/20 – The Challenge of Sharing Our Story
- 9/27 – Writing Our Story of Faith through the Lens of Fallen, Redeemed & Restored
- 10/4 – How to Share Your Story – Remembering Our Stories are Really God's Stories



Thursday Midweek Bible Study - 1 Corinthians

Please 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, and we will conclude on November 16, 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.

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life!



Last month we wrote about 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?*

The Alpha course will be offered this fall at 10AM on Wednesdays beginning on September 6 in class room C. This course will be offered again in 2018 during the evening hours. Join us as we look for answers to questions about life and God and how they relate.

Mission Core Ministry

Campus Ministry Update

There are many wonderful things happening at Campus Ministry at University of Michigan. If this is a ministry that makes your heart sing, then mark your calendar with the following dates. We would love to have a Zion presence in this ministry.

- August 30 and September 1 – Move-in/Orientation Dates on Campus – Volunteers needed to greet students and hand out treats to welcome them.
- September 6 – Taco Truck Party, 12PM – 4PM at 801 S. Forest Avenue – Helpers needed to run games and to sell tickets for the taco truck.
- September 12, 7PM – Meeting for Campus Ministry Action Team – Open to all people are passionate about campus ministry and have a willingness to serve the student population.

Other volunteer positions available: Volunteer Coordinator and Campus Ministry board member. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Friedman, Campus Minister, at 313-800-3217.

Zion Planning 2017 Mission Trip: Living Hope Ministries - Haiti

Zion is planning a mission trip to Haiti Oct. 28 - Nov. 3, 2017 (tentative). This will be our 8th trip to visit our partners in ministry, Mary Jane and Andris Jolibois. We already have about 7 people interested and have begun planning, but more adventure-seeking travelers are very welcome. We will get to see first-hand the budding growth in student numbers in the primary school and trade school, and we will see the 2nd floor classrooms that Zion helped financially kickstart last year. The overall cost of the trip is approximately \$1200. We stay in a comfortable guest house.... it's even air-conditioned. We are still formulating what activities we will do while there, but it will likely include taking photos and measurements of all the students for the Sponsorship Program, craft/recreation activities with the children, and some light maintenance projects. If interested, please contact Mark Gunderson 248-521-9240 cell, or MLGondo@comcast.net.



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Annual Fall Benefit for Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

Saturday, October 14th, 2017, 5:30PM (dinner at 6:30PM)

Buffet dinner, live and silent auction, presentation by Missionaries Mary Jane and Andris Jolibois. Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 S. Jefferson Ave., Plain City, Ohio

\$25 per person - make checks payable to Living Hope Ministries in Haiti. Register with Stacy Lane by email (cathystacy@aol.com), phone (614-792-6184) or on the website (www.livinghopehaiti.org)

Uganda Missionary to Visit Zion

This fall we will be blessed with the presence of Sara Katana Sebyala, a missionary from Kampala, Uganda. She will be visiting Michigan from September 25 through October 25. She enjoys speaking to small groups and individuals, leading Bible studies, and sharing her personal story. Sara has cared for over 150 orphans and continues to bless the people of Uganda through the love of Jesus that she shares with others. Her latest adventure is building a chicken farm in Uganda one brick at a time to create opportunities for women in ministry. If you would like to host Sara at your home, spend a day or evening with her, have her speak to a group inside or outside of Zion, please contact Pastor Vicky Lovell at vlovell@zlc-aa.org.

No Empty Hands

Non-perishable foods are always needed. Special requests this month are for cereals and soups. Always needed are personal care items: toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc. Thank you. Any questions please call Marlene Hintz 395-4094 or Lynn Hutto 717-9672.

After School Program At Peace Neighborhood Center

Zion has supported the K - 8 after school program at Peace Neighborhood Center for many years. Two volunteers are needed from 2:30 - 5:00PM on the 1st and 4th Thursdays and the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Typically, Zion volunteers help prepare and serve an after school meal to approximately 75 eager, smiling faces. Please consider volunteering a few times during the coming school year for this worthwhile service. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered in the past. We hope you will continue your service and encourage a friend or two to join you. Sign up sheets are located at the Zion welcome center. Thank you.

- Helmi Raaska and Linda Hilst, Coordinators

Zion Faith and Food Garden Update



Zion's Faith and Food Garden is now in its sixth year of operation. Through August, an estimated 1,000 lbs. of produce have been harvested from the garden, enough for

4,000 portions of fresh, local, organic vegetables to our neighbors in need. In addition to Zion volunteers, we have also been fortunate to partner with UM's summer program for international scholars, providing community outreach opportunities for six foreign students from Japan, South Korea and Indonesia. If you are interested in helping out at Zion's garden, please contact Garden Guardian Layale Weinert (734-883-6506) or lfweinert@gmail.com.

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"

We are meeting on September 17th at 6:30PM and on Oct 15th at 6:30PM at Barbara Debner's home, to complete our Bible Study by Lyssa TerKeurst titled *Uninvited*. New women are always welcome.

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.

Women's Fall Event and Christmas Luncheon—Save the Dates

This year all Zion women are invited to attend a small retreat in November and a festive Christmas Luncheon in December. For a second year we are having a Women's Fall Event to grow in faith and fellowship at Zion, on November 4 from 10AM-2PM, with the exciting theme 'Encouragement.' Women may begin signing up in September.

Zion's Women's Christmas Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 16th from 11AM until 2PM (weather permitting) in Piper Hall. Hostesses are needed for 10 tables before the end of September. Watch for table sign ups available in October and encourage a friend or young women to come with you. The contact person is Barbara Debner for both events. She is also looking for volunteers to help with both events.

Parish Nurses Report

The Parish Nurses are preparing for the annual Flu Shot Clinic on Tuesday, October 10th, from 9AM to 2PM. This clinic serves not only our members, but many neighbors, who find this a welcoming and convenient place to take care of this vital health need. We even supply homemade cookies, so mark your calendar now!

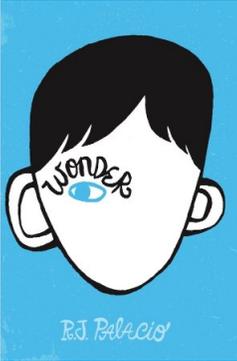
Many of you are aware that we maintain a medical equipment loan closet. The stock includes walkers and crutches, even wheelchairs. Should you have any unneeded equipment in good condition at home, we would love to add it to our supply. If you have a need, we may be able to save you having to purchase equipment by borrowing some of ours.

Last month, you heard about Zion's AED and its usefulness in case of a sudden cardiac event. In case of such an emergency, do you know where to find ours? It is on the wall in the corridor just off the Welcome Center, opposite the Sacristy. There is a dedicated telephone for calling 911 right next to the AED. When you open the door to the AED, the alarm will sound, but just remove the red case and the attached bag, shut the door and the alarm will stop. So the next time you walk down that long corridor to the office area, remember to look to your left and locate the sign above the AED.

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 Stellhorn 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 9PM

Zion Backyard

Authentic German food and music

Tickets available beginning Sept 3

Sundays in the Welcome Center

Weekdays in the church office

Adult 13 and up - \$15

Child 6 to 12 - \$10

5 and under - free

NOTE: Meal tickets must be purchased by September 25. Beer tickets sold separately at the Oktoberfest.

God and Grub Update

Each Wednesday at noon, the Yeager Chapel is rocking! The pews are full with new faces of people from the community along with familiar faces from Zion. Several individuals volunteer to be readers in the service, the sharing of the peace results in greeting every person in the room, and Holy Communion invites all to gather in a circle to receive the body and blood of Jesus. When the service ends, the entire group goes across the hall into the youth room to enjoy a homemade meal together where conversations continue and relationships are built. It's raw, it's real and it's something that you won't want to miss! You are invited to join us. We've missed you.

We always enjoy people participating in worship and we welcome you or your small group to sign up to provide a meal. We cook for 25-30 folks each week all year long. If you find this ministry to be one of interest to you, please contact Pastor Vicky at vlovell@zlc-aa.org to become more involved. We look forward to seeing you there!

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

- Matthew 18:15-20

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) Update

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,

As I write this, the LLM summer break is nearing its end. The next scheduled class is "Basic Systematic Theology," and it is due to start in mid-September. The location and pastor who will teach the class have not been announced yet. I expect this class to take a similar approach to the Christian/Lutheran ethics class which I took in the fall of 2016 – to help us answer questions that LLM's might get from congregation members where we are serving, and to have a system / approach for thinking about these questions. My classes have been challenging and thought-provoking, though I know they're not as rigorous as the seminary classes which Pastor Vicky just completed. I have fewer papers to write, that's for sure! I'm grateful for the opportunity to study under, and be mentored by, faithful pastors and retired pastors in our synod.

- Dale Eckart

Check It Out!

Check out the photos from Pastor Vicky's Ordination and Installation. A great big thank you to Bob Thompson for taking these photos. Go to Zion's website at www.zlc-aa.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage and click on the link for Flickr. There you will find both albums! Enjoy!

Anti-Racism Workshop

This past May, the Synod Assembly of The South East Michigan Synod passed Resolution 2017-1 Urging Congregational Engagement in Anti-Racism Training. In response to this resolution a workshop offering anti-racism training, led by members of the Crossroads Institute, will be held September 21-23 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia. The actions in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 11 and 12, remind us that we must continue working together to build racial reconciliation in Christ's kingdom. As a people marked with the cross of Christ, we have vital, essential work to do to confront racism and the violence that comes with it. We confess we are Jesus's disciples: let us commit to living in a way that shows the truth of that confession. Registration must be submitted by September 11. The cost is \$125. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Thank You and Congratulations

Dear Christian Friends of Zion,

Please accept this note as an apology for a very, very belated "thank you" to all of you for your prayers, cards, visits, flowers and letters. Most of all the Sunday prayers. Especially thankful to caregivers and Pr. Jim for his visits, with communion, on Holy Days and Holidays.

It has been 8 months flat on my back! Hardly seems possible to endure all of that. The wonderful thing has been that Bill, our son, has moved back to Michigan with his wife Kristine. They have been an enormous help in numerous ways.

My spastic paraplegia is progressing slowly. Helen Rae is in the Memory Care Unit. Fortunately, she still remembers me! Bill brings her over every Sunday afternoon for a few hours.

Thank you again. Always exciting to read the *Tower* and follow all the activities. I reminisce about 55 years at Zion. I pray for your ministers every day.

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Dave*

Thank You from the Youth and Welcome Core Ministries. Congratulations on the 2017 Hoedown!

Praise God for the beautiful sunny skies. Many thanks to so many folks for helping make the 2017 Hoedown a great success: our custodians Chris and Max for all their hard work moving tables and chairs and so much more, our grill masters Randy Dence, Jill and John Goldstein, and Ken Utsunomiya, our set up and clean up crew, Bob Thompson, Audrey Seasholtz, Valerie Lehman, Randy and Tyler Dence, Erik, Addy, Charlie and Luke Lovell, Gary Shoettley, Richard Wilson, Karen Salamin, Barbara Debner and Laura Berry, Anna Dupke our faithful nursery attendant who watched over our little ones in the bounce house, Michelle and Tom Clifford for setting up the National Youth Gathering Table, Nina Johnson for hosting the Bibleland table, Christine Gajar for the beautiful decorations, all the youth who helped run the games, Kent Peterson for building the frame for the photo booth, Kaili Dence and Holly Ann Stewy for face painting, David Granner for bringing his beautiful horse to share, Diane Rinehart for logistical support, Bill Lehman for making sure our front lawn looked great, Joni Bertrand for photographing the event, Howard Morris for coming out and video taping, Barbara Debner for coordinating all the drinks, to the ladies of Soul Project who brought their coffee cart to share, to all our members who joined in on the fun and supported the event, and to our Pastors Jim and Vicky for their constant love and guidance. These events could never happen without the help of so many hands. Special congratulations to Nathan D'Andrea, Zion's Youth Director, for all the countless hours and thought that went into every aspect of this event. Thank you all and God Bless.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Friday, Sept. 1

7:30 AM AA Parks & Rec Camp/Everywhere
12:30 PM Friday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge

Saturday, Sept. 2

Sunday, Sept. 3

8:30 AM First Light Worship/Outdoors (last one)
9:30 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
11:00 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

Monday, Sept. 4

OFFICE CLOSED/LABOR DAY

Tuesday, Sept. 5

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
6:30 PM Prayer Team Meeting/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 6

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:15 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, Sept. 7

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, Sept. 8

Saturday Sept. 9

9:00 AM Set up for Bibleland/2nd floor

Sunday, Sept. 10

8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor (Rally Day!)
10:10 AM JAM/Youth Room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, Sept. 11

6:30 PM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:30 PM Monday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 12

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's Office
9:30 AM Waterman Board Meeting/The Gathering
10:00 AM Parish Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM Five Miles More Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, Sept. 13

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:15 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, Sept. 14

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, Sept. 15

Saturday, Sept. 16

Sunday, Sept. 17

8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
10:10 AM JAM/Youth Room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
12:30 PM Catechism parent meeting/Youth Room
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room
6:30 PM Love Lives Here/Debner's Home

Monday, Sept. 18

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
6:30 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Off Site

Tuesday, Sept. 19

9:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Pr. Vicky's office
9:30 AM Organ Tuning/Sanctuary
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 20

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:15 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, Sept. 21

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
11:00 AM Int'l Neighbors/Piper Hall
1:00 AM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, Sept. 22

9:00 AM Luther Community Choral Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday, Sept. 23

9:00 AM Luther Community Choral Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Sunday, Sept. 24

8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
10:10 AM JAM/Youth Room
10:10 AM C+C/Omega Room
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Piper Hall
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
1:00 PM CROP Walk/Off site
4:00 PM Luther Community Choir Choir/Sanctuary
4:30 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, Sept. 25

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Tuesday, Sept. 26

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, Sept. 27

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
12:15 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, Sept. 28

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, Sept. 29

5:00 PM Oktoberfest/Backyard

Saturday, Sept. 30

10:00 AM Luther Day of Community Service

High School / Middle School Youth Fall Calendar



Zion Youth

FALL SCHEDULE		
EVENT	DATE	DATE
Rally Day (HS/MS)	Sept 10th	10:10am
Paint Wars (HS/MS)	Sept 17th	4:30pm
Family Fall Day (MS)	Oct 20th	6pm-9pm
Halloween Look-in (HS)	Oct 27th	7pm-7am
Leaf Rake (HS/MS)	Nov 4th/5th	9am-4pm
Service Day Ice Skate (MS)	Dec 2nd	12pm-4:30pm
Christmas Party (HS)	Dec 10th	4:30pm-6pm
Parents Night Out (HS/MS)	Dec 15th	6pm-9pm

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Date Sensitive Material
Please Deliver by
September 1, 2017

August Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: Ruth Elizabeth Rivard, parents James & Erin Rivard
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.