

From the Desk of the Pastor ...

It was a beautiful sunny day, many years ago, that my Dad and I set up our Clay Pigeon Thrower to Shoot Trap. A Clay Pigeon Thrower is a spring-loaded metal device that can launch clay disks out into open space. Shooting Trap or Trap Shooting is what it's called when an individual uses a firearm to shoot clay disks as they move through the air. It is most common for men and women to Shoot Trap with a shotgun. A shotgun projects several BBs at one time in a pattern that spreads out and weakens as it travels in open space. With luck and practice a good marksman can use the BBs from a shotgun to break apart a clay pigeon as it moves through the air. Normally I do pretty well, but not on this day.... I don't remember whether Dad had asked if I wanted to Shoot Trap or whether I had asked. It was something we both enjoyed and did on occasion. This was a beautiful sunny day with almost no wind; the perfect day to Shoot Trap. Unfortunately I was "off the mark". I missed over and over again. After missing several in a row, my Dad stopped me and said, "I don't know what you are doing wrong, but do something different."



For some reason what he said that day, I have never forgotten. It was a common sense statement that was incredibly simple and yet incredibly profound. It acknowledged that he didn't know what the problem was but could see that the end result was not being met. It recognized my failure to achieve the desired result while encouraging me to continue trying. It echoed the Albert Einstein quote, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results." And so, I made a change. It worked. I hit the next several clay pigeons.

I learned that day a valuable lesson about human nature and human relationships - we need people in our lives that remind us that it's time for a change; especially when our behavior and poor choices are keeping us from living into a greater reality. I have no idea how long I would have kept shooting and missing if it hadn't been for Dad saying something. I would like to think that I would have eventually figured it out, but maybe not... and certainly not nearly as soon.

We do this in the church as well. We do the same thing over and over again and expect different results. We change nothing and wonder why we keep missing the mark. It's time that we made a change. It might not be a big change, it might be very small, but it is time for a change. In the words of my father, "I don't know what you are doing wrong, but do something different."

--Pastor Nathaneil

Serving Zion in July

Ushers



July 1: Bill Gasior & Al Stephens

July 8: Al Stephens

July 15: Tom Davis

July 22: Debbie Muders

July 29: Ross Cummings

Greeters



July 1: none—outdoor service

July 8: Evelyn Stephens & Marsha Davis

July 15: Emily Cekella & Caleb Cekella

July 22: Dave & Jetty Kennedy

July 29: Donna Hall & Pam Ferrainolo

Money Counters



July 1: Debbie Muders & Shirley Fichter

July 8: Evelyn Stephens & Sally Measel

July 15: Al Stephens & Bill Gasior

July 22: Linda Armstrong & Pat Pflug

July 29: George Measel & Bill Gasior

Bulletin Sponsors



July 1: **Available**

July 8: Painter

July 15: **Available**

July 22: Stephens

July 29: Stephens

- If you are unable to serve on your Sunday, please trade with someone.
- Bulletins may be sponsored with a donation of \$15 per week, to offset the cost of the bulletins, and can be given to the glory of God, in memory of someone, or in honor of someone. Note “Bulletins” in the memo section of your check, and please call Melissa in the office if you’d like to sponsor the bulletins.
- Flowers may be given on the altar any Sunday. There are forms on the bulletin board in the entryway. Ask Melissa if you have questions.

Special Worship Service

On Sunday, July 1st, we will have a special outdoor worship service, featuring Dan Schall. Dan is from Zelenople, and through his music and testimony he conveys his love for Jesus Christ and his concern for his fellow man's eternity. His ministry focuses on encouragement and God's love for man. Though Dan stutters when he speaks, the Lord has blessed him with a singing voice of praise to share the Lord's words through music. Dan and his wife, Linda, travel hundreds of miles each year, sharing how God has touched their lives.

Pastor Susie will also be with us for this special service, and communion will be served.

The people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Zelenople, as well as the greater community, are all invited to this service. A fellowship time will follow the service.



Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us!



The family and friends of Goldie Rader, who departed this world on June 7, 2018.

Frank and Joanne Porter, on the death of their daughter, Jill Kotomski, on June 20, 2018.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the children and young adults that Glade Run serves throughout the year, I thank you for your donation through the SWPA Synod.

The Sensory Park and Playground—one of the first play spaces in the nation designed for children with autism—is open! Additional growth is in the process including Jeremiah Village, an inclusive community where individuals with autism can live safe and fulfilling lives in a diverse and welcoming community.

We thank you for the blessing of your support and faith in us and look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming months.

With kind regards,

Sheila Talarico, Executive Director, Glade Run Foundation

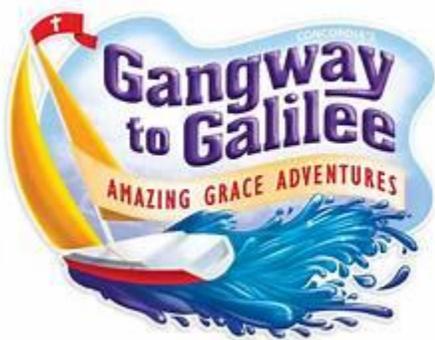


Join us for a fun-filled evening at the Red Barn Theater! On July 13th, we'll gather at the church for a light supper at 6:15, and then carpool to the Red Barn to see "Bonnie and Clyde", which is a musical. This is an "electrifying story of love, adventure and crime", and features a non-traditional score which combines blues, gospel, and rockabilly music. For only \$15, you will get dinner and a show! Sign up now to reserve your ticket.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: We'll be preparing a float for the 4th of July parade. Lots of help will be needed for this endeavor, both to decorate the float and to participate that day.

HORSE TRADING DAYS: In preparation for Vacation Bible School, Zion, along with St. Paul and English Lutheran Churches, will be manning a tent at Horse-Trading Days, from July 19th through the 21st. We will be passing out bottles of water as well as flyers about VBS. Many people will be needed to man the tent, so please consider signing up for an hour! The sign-up sheet will soon be up, so watch the bulletin board—or speak with Shirley Fichter if you have some time to spare and can help with either of these events.



Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, July 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. here at Zion. Once again we are partnering with English Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran Churches for this effort. Our theme this year is "Gangway to Galilee". Registration forms are available online in the "Forms" section of our website (zioninharmony.com), or you can find them at church on the table in the entryway. Get those kids signed up, and plan to come for some fun yourself!

We are required to tidy up our stretch of Route 19 (a few miles north of the church) several times a year. Our next highway cleanup will be on Saturday, July 14th at 8:00 a.m. There is a signup sheet posted on the bulletin board. Vests and everything you will need are provided. Please sign up to help with this task; with many people, it goes very quickly!





Softball Season isn't over yet! There are a couple of games left, so come out and cheer on our team! Below is the schedule.

Games begin at 6:15 p.m.

July 6: vs. Mt. Zion @ Middle Lancaster

July 11: vs. CSP3 @ Middle Lancaster

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

It's that time again to clean out your closets, basement and garage. Soon it will be time to have the clothing and rummage sale. This is the only fund raiser that the WELCA group does in a year. With this money we support many non-profit groups with our donations in December. The date of the clothing and rummage sale is August 10th from 9:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everything will be set up on Wednesday August 8th at approximately 11 am. If you are able to help set up on that day please be there any time from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. Clean up will be at p.m. on August 10th so that the leftovers may be donated to another organization. Please do not bring any donations until August 5th due to VBS being the week before. We ask that all clothing be clean and is good repair and that all rummage sale items be in good working order. Thank you for all your donations and help that you give to this organization. We are becoming an older group and can use all the help we can get.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of challenges, you are standing with them. You are providing relief and hope.

Your contribution provides hope to neighbors near and far, from migrant families facing cold and wet conditions to refugees who have just arrived in the United States to build a new future to guests at homeless shelters. Around the world, your support of this program means vital supplies and support for those in need.

Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed.

We thank you!

May God bless you for your support,

Rev. John L. McCullough

President and CEO, Church World Service



Minutes of Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2018

Minutes of this meeting are subject to Council approval

Attendees: Linda Armstrong, Shirley Fichter, Bill Gasior, George Measel, Sally Measel, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Al Stephens, Evelyn Stephens.

Absent: Pastor Nathaneil Christman

Devotions: Debbie opened the meeting with devotions from 2 Corinthians 9:6, those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly and those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully. This talked about the church tradition of generously giving a 12% tithe to the synod for the benefit of the community and the world.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections so the report was approved by council.

Treasurer's Report: May 2018

| | As of 05/31/18 | As of 04/30/18 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Checking | \$ 65,408.47 | \$ 91,362.43 |
| Petty Cash | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Cash Balance | \$ 65,433.47 | \$ 91,387.43 |
| Less: Capital Improvements | 15,100.57 | 15,040.57 |
| Less: Designated Funds | 28,340.03 | 31,676.33 |
| Less: Payroll Tax Withholding | 342.74 | 170.72 |
| Current Budgeted Funds Available | \$ 21,650.13 | \$ 44,499.81 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Contributions by envelope and plate for May (4 Sundays) were \$10,098.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$6,543.20 giving was \$3,554.80 more than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts exceeded our budgeted amount on three Sundays last month. Envelope giving to date in 2018 totals \$51,724.04 (21 Sundays), and we are \$17,372.24 over budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$65,408.47 most of that money is in designated accounts and can only be used for that specific account. The amount that we actually have to pay our bills is \$21,650.13.

Our average weekly attendance for May was 53.

Rex Energy – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$3,171.98. May receipts were \$283.00. May disbursements were \$94.33 (Cemetery Association). Ending balance for May was \$3,360.65.

Mission Investment Fund: In May we opened 2 new CD's with Mission Investment Fund. Each one was for \$10,000.00. One was for 1 year at a fixed interest rate of 1.150% and will mature on May 16, 2019. The second one was for 2 years at a fixed rate of 1.440% and will mature on May 16, 2020.

GOOD NEWS!!!! We have finished paying off the loan for the new septic system at the parsonage.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathaneil sent the council his report for May, which showed 134.7 miles driven for visitation Zion business and 20 hours committed. The Pastor made 5 home visits and visited 2 council members. He also attended the meeting between Zion and St. Paul's, plus Zion's council meeting.

Old Business:

Holy Cow: Bill previewed his presentation of the Holy Cow survey results to the council. The council knows that the congregation is anxiously awaiting these results so Bill will give a slide presentation on two different Sundays after Service in the Fellowship Hall, July 8th and July 22nd. Bill will also put the presentation on the newly up-dated website.

New Business:

Meeting with Pastor Asplin & St. Paul's, June 21st: Zion will host the meeting with members of our council and call committee attending. George received the announcement of this meeting just days ago so many people had previous plans and won't be able to attend.

Harmony EMS Donation: The church received a donation letter from Harmony EMS and we discussed donating \$100.00 to the organization. Al made a motion to approve the donation. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Window and Bell Tower Repair: Evelyn got two estimates for the repair. The first was from Robert O'Brien from Slippery Rock and was for the Bell Tower only. His estimate was for \$17,720.00 which was entirely too much. The second estimate was from John Byler who gave separate estimates. He will charge \$6,800.00 for the Bell Tower and \$6,200.00 for the windows and doors. We need to address this matter soon since Mr. Byler has been contracted by the Food Cupboard to build their addition. Evelyn informed the council that the Leaf envelopes have collected \$4,620.00 toward this project. She is sending out another Leaf envelope in the near future for more donations. Shirley said that donations to the Roof Fund and Capital Improvements could also be used for the repairs.

Parochial Report: George asked Shirley if she had submitted the yearly parochial report to the Synod and she had. She said the report is very detailed and complex. They ask about our membership and 10-12 questions about the church itself. But the main part is financial: wanting to know about regular giving, special giving, expenses, etc. Any new Pastors will be able to see this report.

Team Reports:

Property: Sometime between now and when the snow falls we will have to see about getting a new roof on the parsonage. I have gotten an estimate from Sam Petrigni (was Minner Co.) for a new shingle roof, the estimate is \$8,950.00 and an estimate from John Byler for a metal roof, the estimate is \$9,800.00, both of these figures are for the house and the porch. I am also getting estimates for the roof at the church, for a slate roof (Dave Wilcox) and for a metal roof (John Byler). As soon as I can get these estimates they will be presented to council and then the procedure will be started to set up for a congregational meeting for the discussion and a vote. This is not something that can be put off because both roofs have already been repaired, and we don't need any water in the parsonage to ruin the new carpet and all the other repairs that were done; and the church roof has been repaired numerous times and has just come to the end of its life.

The pastor's office and the men's restroom have been painted and just needs a good cleaning and put back together, thanks to the help of Frank Porter and Tom Davis. The wallpaper has been started and is almost completely done thanks to the diligent, hard work of Emily Painter. There is a lot of wallpaper and border that has been removed, in the ladies restroom, hallway by the offices and the one small wall by the water cooler; only 1 wall left to do in the Fellowship hall and then we can scrub down, primer and paint. Bear with us, it will soon be done.

I took a good look at the landscaping around the church and realized it is in HORRIBLE condition and needs more than just a pulling of a few weeds. It needs all the shrubs trimmed, weeds pulled, new fabric put down and nice red mulch put down all the way around the church, so I am getting 2 estimates for getting this job done BEFORE OUR OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE. Then the property team and a few volunteers will be able to maintain it for many years to come. Property has also bought a lawn sweeper that is being used for the church and parsonage to keep all the grass picked up so excess is not left lying in clumps and in large areas when the weather doesn't cooperate with our mowing schedule. These are all things we are doing to try to make and keep GOD'S House as beautiful as possible. We will also be weed eating the sand mound and putting weed and feed down to obtain a more grassy area so we can keep it mowed and maintained.

Update: An estimate was received for landscaping: Mulch, plastic, trim bushes, remove dead rhododendrons, etc. The total is \$1,940.00. Evelyn would like this done for the July 1st outdoor picnic since the members of St. Paul's are invited and we would like to make a good impression.

--Submitted by Al Stephens

Fellowship: July 1st: OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:30 in Zion's picnic shelter with Quest performer Dan Schall for our musical pleasure. Pastor Susie will have the service and we will also partake in Holy Communion. There will be 2 offerings this Sunday (1st one our regular Zion offering and the 2nd one is a free will offering for Dan Schall ministries). Bring your lawn chair for outside BUT if it rains join us for this special service in our Fellowship hall, then stay and join us for an hour of fellowship with coffee and muffins. We have extended the invitation to St. Paul's and it is also for the public's enjoyment. So bring the family or a friend and join us for worship. Information about Zion's Outdoor

Service on July 1st, featuring Dan Schall, will be in the Butler Eagle under Church Activities. The service will be open to the public.

July 8th: Birthday/ Anniversary celebration and Bill will do the first ½ half of the presentation on the Holy Cow, so stay informed on this important information and join us for cake and coffee while you listen. This will be a normal fellowship hour.

FRIDAY July 13th: Join us at 6:15 for a light evening meal, the car pool around 7:15 to the Red Barn Theater to see the musical Bonnie & Clyde that starts around 8 p.m. We will return back to Zion around 10 – 10:30. See Melissa at the office or Evelyn for reserving your tickets (limited number). Tickets and the meal is only \$15.00 per person. So bring your spouse or a friend for a great night out. You must be signed up and paid by Sunday July 8th.

July 15th: Special Fellowship hour

July 22nd: Strawberry short cake and the 2nd half of Bill's holy cow presentation

July 29th: Coffee hour

Mark your calendar: SATURDAY AUGUST 18th: Zion's Church Picnic – starting at 1:00 p.m. Rain or shine!

We had a real nice turn out and nice weather for the men's grill out and everyone had a nice time. It was so nice to see some faces that we haven't seen in a long time and some new faces. I would like to thank everyone who came and we hope to see you again soon. Thanks to Joanne Porter and Sally Measel for making food and to clean up. Let's see if we can have even a bigger turn out next year.

On June 24th we had our indoor 4th of July picnic early because of our outdoor worship service the first Sunday in July. We had the usual picnic food and a nice crowd. Our indoor holiday picnics are becoming very popular and everyone is enjoying them. Special thanks to Barb Burgh and Debbie Ridgley for making food for not only this indoor picnic but also our indoor Memorial Day Picnic and last but not least a very special THANK YOU to the FELLOWSHIP TEAM for all their food preparation and help in setting and cleaning up.

The Ellwood City Chorale is tentatively scheduled to perform at Zion on December 9th. Evelyn still has to confirm the date.

We are going to miss a very dear friend and a valued member of our Fellowship team in the loss of Goldie Rader, a super person and a great friend and we wish to send our thoughts and prayers to Goldie's husband Gary and her family. She will be deeply missed by everyone.

--Submitted by Evelyn Stephens

Meeting Human Needs/ Every Member Involvement: Road Cleanup - We will be doing another road clean up on July 14th, please sign up if you are interested in helping out.

Holy Cow - Bill will be presenting and debriefing the congregation after select Sunday services throughout July. Please the informational board for details.

--Report submitted by Bill Gasior, Vice President and Meeting Human Needs Chair

Christian Education: Sunday School - A big THANK YOU to all the teachers. You continue to lead us in our learning experience. Your years of dedicated service to this important area of our ministry are sincerely appreciated.

--Vacation Bible School - The theme for our float in the July 4th parade is Gangway to Galilee. We have purchased wristbands that we will be passing out. Volunteers of every age are welcome to walk beside the float and hand them out.

--We will be sharing a booth with English during Horse Trading Days. The dates are July 19 – July 21. We will be passing out small bottles of water and flyers for VBS. We will need volunteers to help man the booth. Coverage will be split between Zion and English. We need to have coverage on Thursday from 3 to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 8 PM.

--Vacation Bible School is July 23rd – July 26th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This year we are asking each child to bring a canned food donation for the Food Cupboard. Our offering will go to a local charity. We are looking for suggestions. On Thursday, July 26th we will have the closing program. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM in the social hall. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Zion will provide the paper products, hot dogs, buns and drinks. After dinner we will move to the sanctuary for the program. Invite family and friends. Everyone is welcome.

--If you have any questions or need more information, please contact either Marsha Davis or Shirley Fichter.

--The next meeting will be June 28th at 6:30 PM at Zion.

--Shirley Fichter

Stewardship: It was decided NOT to give out mid-year giving statements this year. They were not given in 2017 either. Until we have a new pastor, it was deemed not really necessary. End-of-year statements are given not only to see one's contributions for the year, but also for income tax purposes.

Financially, Zion is holding its own well. The really large upcoming projects are going to be the roofs on both the parsonage and over the church sanctuary. We also are still collecting donations towards the much needed work on the steeple and replacing the doors/windows framing with vinyl so they won't need the continual upkeep of painting. The boxes of weekly contribution envelopes have been ordered for 2019.

A reminder to all church council members that the team budgets for 2019 MUST be submitted by the August council meeting so preparation of the 2019 budget can begin. The budget is the ultimate responsibility of the Executive Committee and will need congregational approval/passing at the November Congregational meeting.

Please remember that Zion's bills and expenses continue over the summer, so please continue to support your church even if you are going to miss some Sundays. Simply Giving is an easy way to contribute on a monthly or bimonthly basis and assures that your contributions reach the church even in your absence. You can talk to Melissa Painter in the office if you would be interested in learning more about setting this up.

--Sally Measel

Worship: Worship team met on June 6 with Pastor Susie on speaker phone. Rosemarie has set up her vacation Sundays with Carol Zimmerman and Emily Painter. Be sure to come to services and hear the special music this summer from Carol, Emily, and others. If you would like to provide special music this summer, vocal or instrumental, please speak to Rosemarie as soon as possible. July 15 will be the Baptism of "Baby Cory" with Pastor Susie and Pastor Nathaneil presiding. We are also hoping to schedule another outdoor service for August with Pastor Susie. Worship assistants were assigned for July, and we looked ahead to August. We did not schedule a formal meeting for July, but August's meeting will August 1, 7:00, unless we decide to meet sooner.

We are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran on September 16th**. There will be no service at Zion that Sunday.

The Worship team would like to thank Renee Jackman for the beautiful photo book that she put together for our 175th Anniversary. It is on display in the social hall for the entire congregation to enjoy. THANKS AGAIN RENEE.

Prayer request cards are now available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. These may be filled out before church and placed in the prayer box for the worship assistants to add to the verbal prayers of the day and then place them in the altar prayer box. Prayer request cards may also be given to the worship assistant or placed in the offering plate for the next Sunday.

The choir will have their robes dry cleaned this summer at a cost of \$20.00-\$25.00 per robe. The cost will be deducted from line item #160.

--Submitted by Pat Pflug

July Money Counters:

1st: Shirley & Debbie

8th: Evelyn & Sally

15th: Bill & Al

22nd: Linda & Pat

29th: Bill & George

August Money Counters:

5th: No service at Zion, Invited to St. Paul's service.

12th: Sally & Evelyn

19th: George & Bill

26th: Pat & Linda

Devotions for August: Evelyn

Next Council Meeting: August 9th

Shirley made a motion to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion passed. The council prayed the Lord's Prayer and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Muders

**please note, the date for the joint worship service at St. Paul Lutheran has been changed to SEPTEMBER 16th. We will worship at Zion as usual on August 5th.