

Zion Lutheran Church
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"To be together growing in Christ, to be His message to others"

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Did you know that the Bible references money and possessions more than any other topic in scripture? That's right, and by a large margin. The second most referenced topic is love. And occasionally love and money are in the same verse: *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains (1 Timothy 6:10).*

Given that the topic of money is so prevalent in scripture one would think that of every topic that could be preached from the pulpit that money and possessions would be the most often. That said, I can count the number of sermons that I have given on money on one hand. Is that a failure on my part or wisdom to avoid an uncomfortable topic?

Why is it so difficult to talk about money? Is it because we believe our money belongs to us? That we earned it? In fact, don't we talk like that – in terms of "earnings"? And if we "earned it" then it belongs to us for our own pleasure and enjoyment. In which case, what I do for my own pleasure and enjoyment is no one else's business. Or is it because we are so generous that we don't want others to be humbled by our incredible generosity? Or is it because we are ashamed by how little or how much we have and if others knew then they would judge us? What is your reason? Are these reasons valid or do we hide behind them out of fear? Does fear keep us from talking about money? Does pride? If so, I would like to set you free...

In a radio interview, not that long ago, I listened as Comedian Dave Chappelle (who walked away from a 50 million dollar contract) say, "Money creates choices." He's right, money does create choices and by extension opportunity, but opportunity for whom and for what? This is where the pastor comes in: money creates opportunity for *YOU*; for *YOU* to help *THEM*... Money creates opportunity for you to give others choices. If you are blessed with money than you have the opportunity to give people life-giving choices. You are special; you are one of only a few on this planet that have this rare gift. What will you do with this opportunity that you have been given? There is no time like the present to make a difference in someone's life.

Perhaps we should talk....

Just a Thought.

Nathaneil

Serving Zion this month

Ushers



June 3: Dave Kennedy
June 10: Melissa Painter
June 17: Caleb Cekella
June 24: Sally Davis

Greeters



June 3: Tim & Marsha Davis
June 10: Don Grubbs & Zachary Porter
June 17: Pam Ferrainolo & Angela Muniz
June 24: Shirley Fichter & Pat Givens

Money Counters



June 3: Bill Gasior & Linda Armstrong
June 10: Evelyn Stephens & Sally Measel
June 17: Shirley Fichter & Debbie Muders
June 24: George Measel & Al Stephens

Bulletin Sponsors



June 3: Available
June 10: Trimble
June 17: Burgh
June 24: Zebell

- 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.



Fellowship

June 3: Graduates will be recognized during worship as well as afterward with cake and snacks.

June 10: Birthday and Anniversary Celebration

June 13: Men's Father's Day Grill Out—see details below!

June 17: Fellowship Hour

June 24: Indoor Fourth of July Picnic. A freewill offering will be taken.

And coming up in July....

July 1: Outdoor Worship with Dan Schall "Sharing the Love of God Through Music", and Pastor Susie. Fellowship Hour will follow the service.

July 13 (Friday): Red Barn Theater night! Meet at the church at 6:00 for a light meal, then carpool to see "Bonnie and Clyde" (a musical) at the Red Barn. Tickets are \$15, which includes your meal! Watch for a sign-up sheet, and sign up to secure your ticket!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

On Sunday, June 3rd, we will honor those graduating from high school and higher education. Please come to worship that day so that we can recognize your accomplishment! We will celebrate afterward at our Fellowship Hour as well.



BEAU MULBAUER: Beau will be a graduate of Lawrence County Career and Technical School. He is in the field of collision repair and he has been working in co-op (part time school and part time work). This year he has been a teaching assistant to the instructor on his school week. His co-op place of employment has been McElwain Motors in Ellwood City, and they have asked him to stay employed with them after graduation, and have offered help in paying for additional classes for his certifications in different aspects of his field.

CALEB CEKELLA: Caleb will graduate from Seneca Valley High School. He plans to attend Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, to major in actuarial science. He will also play on the soccer team there.



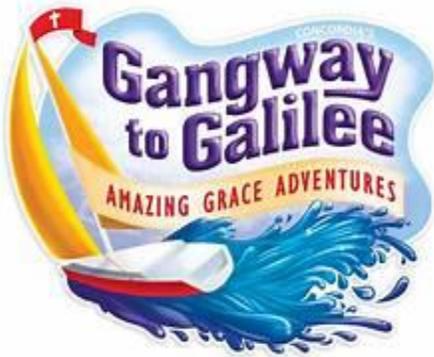
Men, bring your favorite meat to grill and don't forget your sons, grandsons, or maybe your brother, uncle, or friend! No matter whom you bring, come and enjoy a great social outing to celebrate Father's Day. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will also need women to help provide side dishes and clean up. The festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13th.

During July and August, our choir takes a break. If you play a musical instrument or sing, and would like to share your talent with your church family on a Sunday morning, please see Rosemarie. No auditions are necessary, just a willing heart.



Did you know that softball season is here? You can go to the games and cheer on our team! Most of the games are at the field in Middle Lancaster, or at Lutherlyn. Below is the schedule. Games begin at 6:15 p.m.

- June 1: Lutherlyn Field
- June 5: Middle Lancaster
- June 20: Middle Lancaster
- June 26: Middle Lancaster
- June 29: Middle Lancaster
- July 5: Lutherlyn Field
- July 13: Middle Lancaster



Vacation Bible School will soon be here! This year's theme is "Gangway to Galilee", and once again we'll be joining with English and St. Paul Lutheran Churches for a week of fun, from July 23rd through the 26th. Volunteers, supplies, and cash donations will be needed. We are also asking that children bring canned food donations for the Food Cupboard. Offerings will be donated to a local charity; suggestions are being taken as to which charity we will choose. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Marsha Davis or Shirley Fichter.

To add to the excitement, we will also have a float in the July 4th parade! Lots of help will be needed to prepare the float, and we'll need folks to ride and walk alongside—we will be passing out wristbands with information about VBS.

Another volunteer opportunity will be Horse-Trading Days—will we be sharing a booth with English Lutheran, passing out bottles of water and flyers for VBS. Many volunteers will be needed to help man the booth, beginning on Thursday, July 19 from 3:00-8:00, and continuing Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21, from 10:00 until 8:00. Volunteer hours will be split amongst Zion, English, and St. Paul. Please consider signing up for a slot, and let's get the news out about VBS and our churches!



June's special offering envelope will benefit VOICE. Voice provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. The Emergency Crisis Shelter is a 30-day temporary housing option for survivors and their minor children who must flee their homes because of domestic violence, and provides a safe, secure, and supportive environment where survivors can begin to make plans to move past the abuse that brought them to the shelter.

Please give generously so that these women can continue to receive support.

WORLD HUNGER

During Lent, we collected money for the ELCA World Hunger initiative. This year our total was \$1,300.69. Have you ever wondered exactly how our donations are used? From the ELCA World Hunger website:

"More than 800 million people - that's 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty."



This year, we collected \$255 for blankets through Church World Service. Thank you for your generosity!

"For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential."

Mother – Daughter Dinner

On May 7th 45 mothers, daughters and friends alike joined together to celebrate a special day devoted to the women we all love. It was so nice to see those whom we don't get to see often. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by each of us with the men and boys there to help clean up. A special thanks to Carl, Tom, Don, Chad, Doug, Chase and Josh for staying to clean up even though the Penguins game was on.

--submitted by Chris Trimble

On Thursday, June 7th, the church will be getting a new tankless hot water heater. This should save us a lot of money on our gas bills! Many thanks to Chris and Doug Trimble for donating this to the church. If you or anyone you know could use a working 80-gallon hot water heater, please let Al Stephens know by June 7th. It is FREE; you only need to haul it away.



Please be aware that in the near future, the church office hours may change for a week or so, as the church offices are painted. At that time, the office hours will likely be Monday & Tuesday, or Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, rather than the usual schedule of Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you try to contact the office, and don't get a response, this will likely be the reason. Thanks for your patience!



JUNE MEETINGS

June 6: Worship & Music Team meets @ 7:00

June 14: Council meets at 7:00

June 20: WELCA meets at 10:00

June 23: Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.



Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday May 10, 2018

Attendees: Shirley Fichter, George Measel, Sally Measel, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Al Stephens, Evelyn Stephens and Pastor Nathaneil Christman

Absent: Linda Armstrong and Bill Gasior

Devotions: Shirley opened the meeting with devotions from Matthew 21: 1-3. The owner of a donkey gifted his animal, a most valuable possession, to Jesus so he could ride into Jerusalem to fulfill the prophecies and save mankind. Giving is an act of faith. We must find a way to give to the Lord our time, talent and possessions.

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

Treasurer's Report: April 2018

	As of 04/30/18	As of 03/31/18
Checking	\$ 91,362.43	\$ 84,106.65
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 91,387.43	\$ 84,131.65
Less: Capital Improvements	15,040.57	14,865.57
Less: Designated Funds	31,676.33	30,442.98
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	170.72	(3.07)
Current Budgeted Funds Available	\$ 44,499.81	\$ 38,826.17

Contributions by envelope and plate for April (5 Sundays) were \$11,170.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$8,179.00 giving was \$2,991.00 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 \$41,626.04 (17 Sundays), and we are \$13,817.44 over budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$91,362.43 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 \$44,499.81.

Our average weekly attendance for March was 67.

Rex Energy – Miscellaneous (Account #980)

Opening Balance was \$4,307.43. April receipts were \$315.96. April disbursements totaled \$1,451.41, Cemetery Association - \$105.32, Harmony Fire District - \$100.00, Harps and Willows - \$1,246.09. Ending balance for April was \$3,171.98.

Parsonage maintenance shows that we are over budget. After the church pays back Tom Davis in May or June this line item will accurately reflect the budget amount. The church recently sent a check to Mission Investment Funds to open two C.D.s, \$10,000.00 for one year and \$10,000.00 for two years at the May rates. That means the church will have two to three C.D.s coming due every year. If the church needs funds for major improvements we will not lose money on penalties or interest.

We did not make our goal for World Hunger (Lenten Denial) this year. The goal was \$1,500.00 and we only collected \$1,300.69.

Sally made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathaneil presented his report for April, which showed 184.6 miles driven for visitations and Zion business and 16 hours committed. The pastor made 6 home visits and numerous phone calls and E-mails. The pastor was on vacation during the month of April so he could not make his 20 hours this month which was understandable.

Old Business:

Holy Cow: There was no report since Bill was absent.

New Business:

Social Hall use for Senior Project: Rachael Villegas requested to use our Social Hall for a dinner to raise money for indigent families at the Mexico City Dump. George asked if we could eliminate the charge for the hall as this is such a charitable senior project. Evelyn made a motion to waive the fee. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

Planning: We are sending an invitation to St. Paul's to attend our outdoor services, July 1st, with Dan Schall; and our outdoor picnic, August 18th. There is still a decision to be made about whether our church will provide all the food for these occasions or ask St. Paul's to bring something.

Zion would like to host the next meeting with St. Paul's to discuss yoking. Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner will let us know when she is available to chair another meeting. Some questions were posed to ask St. Paul's to determine if the churches are compatible. What missions do they support? What missions are they passionate about as a congregation? The time of services would seem to be the biggest decision. Would we like to have an early or late service? It may take the next year to make decisions on all the questions.

Church Membership Roll: Pastor Nathaneil told council that the definition of voting and active members in the Synod constitution is determined by the National Churchwide Assembly. Active members commune or contribute. Voting members commune and contribute. Anyone who was baptized or confirmed at Zion is a member of the church. Associate members are people who worship at Zion but are members of other churches. They cannot vote. Seasonal members are people who worship at Zion only during the summer. They cannot vote.

Evelyn, Pat and others have been working on cleaning up our membership roll for the last two years. Evelyn presented the council with a letter to be sent out to 80 – 85 active and inactive members. We need to communicate that response to this letter is just to update our records and not to remove people from the church roll. Pastor Nathaneil said that even though he was in favor of sending out a similar letter Oak Grove Council decided not to send one out. Council is still making a decision and updating the letter. Once the membership roll is complete George would like the Executive Committee to maintain it. They would tell Melissa what members to add or subtract. This would keep the list current.

Miscellaneous: Sally passed out a letter that will be mailed out with the mid-year giving statement. She also said that there could be two envelopes included in our offering envelopes that might be renamed. She would like the committees to meet to determine their 2019 budget and submit this to council at the August meeting for review. Al passed around a color chart to pick a color to paint the fellowship hall and bathrooms. A beautiful color was chosen. Al informed council that Zach Porter will be cutting grass at the church this year.

Team Reports:

Christian Education: This year Zion will have a float in the July 4th parade. The theme is Gangway to Galilee. We will be passing out wristbands that have the dates and the location for Vacation Bible School. We will need help preparing the float as well as people either riding on it or walking beside it.

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

Vacation Bible School is July 23rd – July 26th. This year we are asking each child to bring a canned food donation for the Food Cupboard. The offering we receive will go to a local charity. We are looking for suggestions.

Watch your newsletter and bulletins for more information on these activities. We will need volunteers, supplies and will be accepting cash donations. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact either Marsha Davis or Shirley Fichter.

The next meeting will be May 30th at 5:30 PM at Zion.

Worship & Music: Worship team met May 2 with Pastor Susie on speaker phone. Pam and the worship assistants discussed scheduling Dan Schall with Pastor Susie. July 1 and 15 are open on Dan's schedule, and since that is a communion Sunday, Pam wanted to discuss the issues with Susie. We decided to stay with an outdoor service on July 1 with Mr Schall doing music and lessons and Pastor Susie serving communion. We also want to make this a real outreach to the community. Melissa will post the event on the sign in front of the church announcing this service, and Evelyn will put an announcement in the newspaper. There was more discussion about making Pentecost special and stressing that it is the Birthday of the church. Marcia D. will plan some new displays and Evelyn will have a cake for fellowship May 20. Be sure to wear something red that day. Pastor Susie plans to use the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday, May 27. May 27 is also the last Sunday for Sunday school.

Worship services will remain at 10:30 for the summer months. Rosemarie will take vacation Sundays in July with Carol Zimmerman as a substitute. Emily Painter has also offered to play for us 2 Sundays. Pastor Susie would like to have a "Celebrate the children" service in the summer using Sunday school or Bible School songs. We also discussed making our service easier for visitors to follow and participate in. Worship assistants were assigned for June. Graduates will be recognized in June 3. Be sure to let the church office know of any High school or college graduates. Melissa has sent out letters asking our graduates to tell us their future plans.

The next worship team meeting will be June 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please note the summer time schedule for the meeting. Submitted by Pat Pflug

Fellowship: June 3rd: Honoring our Graduates at our worship service, We have 5 Graduates this year: Caleb Cekella, Brody Davis, Beau Mulbauer, Tyler Poole, and Matthew Rubright. Please stay after the service for a Fellowship hour of cake and snacks. CONGRATULATIONS and the BEST OF EVERYTHING FOR YOUR FUTURE.

June 10th: Birthday & Anniversary Sunday

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13th: MEN'S GRILLOUT --- starting at 6 p.m. Rain or shine. Bring your dad, son, brother, uncle or just a friend or neighbor to share a good time with. Bring your favorite meat to grill and Fellowship and the women will provide the side dishes, drinks and place settings. Come and have a Good Time!!!!

Sunday June 17th: HAPPY FATHER'S DAY --- Fellowship hour

Sunday June 24th: Because of a SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE the 1st Sunday in July we will have our indoor 4th of July picnic early, so join us for worship, then stay for all your favorite picnic foods and enjoy some great Fellowship. FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.

Sunday July 1st: A SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE at our usual time of 10:30 a.m. FEATURING DAN SCHALL!!!. "Sharing the Love of God Through Music". Pastor Susie will also be there to provide communion for anyone who would like to partake. We will have our Fellowship hour after the service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!! Friday July 13th: We will be going to the Red Barn Theater to see the Musical Bonnie and Clyde. We will have a short light evening meal around 6 p.m. at the church and then car pool to the Red Barn around 7:15. Tickets are \$15.00 and must be paid in advance, this includes your meal. ANY QUESTIONS please see Evelyn.

Annual Church Picnic: SATURDAY AUGUST 18th starting at p.m. Rain or shine. More details to follow.

--Evelyn Stephens

Property: The grass at the parsonage and at the church is being mowed this year by Zack Porter and both cemeteries are being mowed by Jeff Miller.

I am picking up the supplies to get ready to do the painting of the restrooms, offices and social hall. I have many volunteers, so I will be calling them to let them know when we will be doing it. I wish to thank Shirley Fichter for a lot of the painting supplies she is donating; it is helping to keep the cost down.

On Sunday May 13th before church I noticed the roof in the church was leaking, so I will be getting estimates for putting on a new roof, it is the same spot that has leaked before and the roof must be replaced. It will be a huge expense and we will need to decide if it will be a new slate roof or a metal roof. There will be more information coming and there will have to also be a special congregational meeting so it can be voted on. I have also gotten 2 bids for the roof at the parsonage because it needs to be replaced. The parsonage roof was repaired through the winter and we saw the shingles were all curling up, so to avoid any water damage to the new carpeting and all the other repairs that Kathy Burg had done, it also has to be replaced. Watch for more details to follow.

--Alvin Stephens

June Money Counters:

3rd: Bill & Linda

10th: Evelyn & Sally

17th: Shirley & Debbie

24th: George & Al

Devotions for June: Debbie

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 14th

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

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Muders