

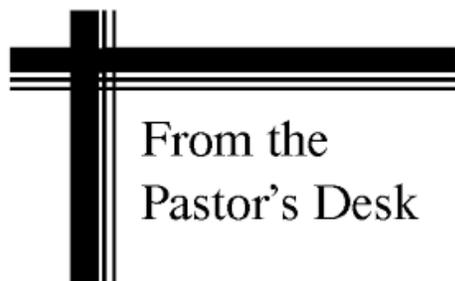
Zion Echoes



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

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From the Pastor's Desk

I'm not much of an activist. Never have been. I think the primary reason that I am not much of an activist is because I value relationships more than most anything. And it's hard to be an activist for anything when all I really want to do is get to know you. I would love to hear what *you* care about and are passionate about; I bet that we'll find something in common if we take the time to get to know each other a little better. That's important to me.

Don't get me wrong, I have plenty of opinions on what is best but that will come later, when you know me a little better and know that I care about you as a person. Then, we'll debate the finer points of scripture, education,

money, 'isms, and perhaps even a little politics. But even then I'll work around the edges first to make sure we can have this conversation and still be friends. After all, I'd rather be your friend than convince you to value the same things I value. What a boring world it would be if everyone believed the same as me...

This is all well and good most days; but very recently, I'm afraid that I became an activist....

Thankfully most people missed it - most passed by too busy to notice. Too focused on their own lives to see what I saw. Of course, a few noticed and approved. And a few, the ones I was most worried about, saw and disapproved. They made a judgment before I ever had the chance to break the ice with them.... Regardless, I didn't do it for any of them. I did it for my daughter. I did it for my family.

I'm about to tell you what I did and some of you will roll your eyes and think, "You sure know how to make a big deal out of nothing!" Others will approve. Others will focus on the action and wonder what the world is coming to. So, here is what I did. I put my six-year old girl in a Cub Scout uniform, gave her a stack of Pack 444 business cards, and encouraged her to recruit every girl that passed by at the Freedom Elementary School Open House to join Cub Scouts. For those who haven't heard – Boy Scouts of America just opened the Cub Scout program up to Elementary age girls this fall. It has been a hot topic for a lot of people and I personally have wrestled with it all summer.

I didn't put my daughter in a Cub Scout uniform to make a statement – though I know that it did. I did it because my family decided to commit ourselves to the BSA program and my daughter didn't want to be in scouts with boys, she wanted to be in scouts with girls.

Why not just be a Girl Scout you ask? Simply put, the local Cub Scout Pack is fantastic! As of October 3rd the Pack has over 70 youth registered. The leadership is exceptional and the program is remarkable. Also, our family is already invested in this program and it is very convenient for our whole family to be able to participate. And finally, I believe that there is room for boys to be boys and girls to be girls and still be part of the same great over-arching program.

I never meant for my daughter to be a trail blazer. I never meant to be an advocate for a cause. I never imagined that I would be encouraging families to be part of a contested change. I'm not comfortable with it and I worry about it every time I put her in the uniform - which has been three times now. Will somebody say something foolish to her? Will someone hurt this little angel's feelings? Will someone crush her enthusiasm? I brace myself for the inevitable and pray I can respond in love when it happens.

I'm not much of an activist and I don't want to be. I just want my little girl to have this opportunity to thrive, to advance, to excel, to experience what it means to be a Cub Scout in Pack 444.

This experience has taught me something about activism – not all activism is done by noisy people that need a cause to champion. Some activism is done because to not act would be settling for less. And my daughter deserves every opportunity I can give her. Of course, I don't expect others to agree with me, she's not their daughter after all! All I ask is this: How far would you go for your daughter or granddaughter? What bridge would you not cross for her sake?

To say it a different way, my relationship with my daughter will win out over others' opinions of me every time. Part of me wishes this were not the case, but how could I be a good father and do anything less?

There is a story in scripture when King David moves the Ark of the Covenant (a relic that was kept in the holiest place in God's temple) to Jerusalem. The book of 2 Samuel (chapter 6) describes King David as dancing wildly “with all of this might” around the Ark as it enters the city. David's wife is furious with him and comes out of their house to tell him how ashamed he should be for his vulgar behavior “dancing half-naked” around the Ark. David's response is epic. David tells her that “for the Lord he will become even more undignified than this.” There is a song by the David Crowder Band called Undignified that captures this story well. Here are some of the Lyrics:

I will dance I will sing to be mad for my King
Nothing Lord is hindering this passion in my soul
And I'll become even more undignified than this
Some may say it's foolishness
But I'll become even more undignified than this
Leave my pride by my side
And I'll become even more undignified than this

In this story David doesn't care what his wife thinks of him – he cares what God thinks of him. David prioritizes his relationship with God over that of his relationship with his Queen. By doing such he becomes an activist for God. Now, I have no idea if God wanted this or if David was just being a fool as his wife said. But I hope that God accepted David's foolishness for the gift that it was meant to be. Equally I don't know if girls should be in Boy Scouts, or if I am just being a fool as I am prone to be. But I hope that the people I meet will accept my foolishness in the best possible light.

Perhaps that is all we can ever hope for. That the world would look at us and interpret what we do and what we say in the best possible light.

Just a thought.
Pastor Nathaneil



Wednesday, Nov. 7	8:00 Worship & Music Team
Thursday, Nov. 8	7:00 Church Council
Sunday, Nov. 18	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Wednesday, Nov. 21	10:00 WELCA meets
Every Wednesday	7:00 Choir practice

Serving Zion this month

Ushers



November 4: Mark Kristophel

November 11: Al Stephens

November 18: Carla Wright

November 25: Pam Bintrim

Greeters



November 4: Carla & Dale Wright

November 11: Tom & Edie Brain

November 18: George & Sally Measel

November 25: Alice Rubright & Vicki Moyer

Money Counters



November 4: Al Stephens & George Measel

November 11: Shirley Fichter & Debbie Muders

November 18: Sally Measel & Evelyn Stephens

November 25: Pat Pflug & Linda Armstrong

Bulletin Sponsors



November 4: Stephens

November 11: Trimble

November 18: Hall

November 25: **AVAILABLE**

- 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.



Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on November 4th during our Fellowship Hour.

Veterans' Appreciation Lunch will be on November 11th. Join us for lunch to honor those who have served our country!

Coffee Hour will be held following worship on November 25th. (There will be NO fellowship time on November 18th, due to the congregation meeting and the fellowship hall rental in the afternoon.)

The Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18th, following our worship service. Please be here for this important meeting!



The Chime Choir will play during our December 16th service. Rehearsals will be held following worship and coffee fellowship on November 4, 11, 18, December 2, and December 9, for about 20 minutes. If you've never been part of this group before, please give it a try. You don't need to be able to read music, the only requirement is being able to tell red from blue!

Operation Christmas Child is now underway! Please consider packing a box for a deserving child. We now have boxes available in the Fellowship Hall, along with suggestions on what to pack. Please pick up a box and other information today! Collection week is November 12-19, so please have your boxes returned to the church by Sunday, November 18th.

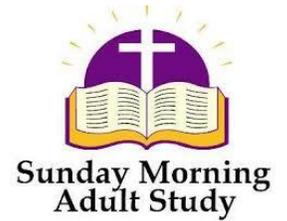


Call Committee Update

Our joint Call Committees at Zion and St. Paul have been hard at work interviewing potential pastoral candidates. These candidates responded to our initial Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that was submitted to the Bishop's office and is then posted on the Synod's website. Each potential Pastoral candidate understands and is willing to accept working with a two point parish.

We are encouraged that qualified Pastoral candidates are interesting in serving at St. Paul and Zion. As a group, we have decided to be patient and thorough to find the right Pastor for both of our churches.

The members of your Call Committee are Caleb Cekella, Edie Brain, Carla Wright, Oscar Domhoff, Jessica Gasior, and Frank Porter. We appreciate your patience, prayers, and support.

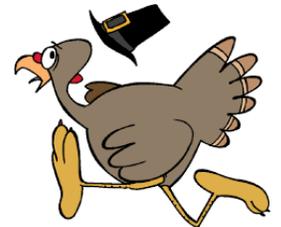


The Adult Sunday School class will continue their Bible study of Matthew each Sunday at 9:15. Bring your Bible and concordance and join us as we study verse by verse. All men and women from age 16 on up are welcome!



Beginning on October 29th, the church office hours will be changing. Hours will be **Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00 until 2:00**. This will allow me to help out my son and daughter-in-law by babysitting my new granddaughter, Elizabeth, three days a week. Church council has graciously approved this change, and I would like to thank them for making it possible for me to have this time with my granddaughter!

The Annual Turkey Trot for the Food Cupboard continues through Sunday, November 18th. Please place food items in your favorite turkey's lane, and let's see how much food we can collect for the food cupboard. "Vote" for your favorite Pittsburgh sports team by donating food to each turkey.



The holidays will be here soon! On Sunday, December 9th, the Ellwood City Chorale will be here at Zion to present a concert. The program begins at 3:00. Mark your calendar; you won't want to miss this!

Celebrating
175
Years

You will soon be receiving the final history write-ups celebrating Zion's 175th year of serving the Lord. We hope you have found these to be interesting! You'll also be getting an additional "Leaf" envelope, in case you would like to contribute to our Anniversary Tree. All funds collected through this effort will be used toward replacing the wood around the church windows with easy-to-maintain vinyl, and also toward redoing the bell tower which is in poor condition. You can give in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or simply to the Glory of God. May God bless Zion with another 175 years!



**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday October 11, 2018**

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

Absent: Bill Gasior

Visitors: Sharon Klaiber, Tom Bickert

Devotions: Pat opened the meeting with devotions reading from Colossians 3:12-15 from the devotional “Ordinary People for Extraordinary Times”. FYI Pastor Christman has a text in that devotional. Due to certain circumstances, a church in the area has set up a permanent clothing drive to help people in need. We need to clothe ourselves in God’s love and find a way to provide for those who are less fortunate.

Secretary’s Report: There were two corrections to last month’s Secretary’s report. Under roll call, Evelyn sends out the Newsletter to a dozen **active** members. Under Christian Education, Shirley has only bought one year of Sunday school material and is hoping to buy two years of liturgical curriculum. Shirley made a motion to approve the Secretary’s report. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Shirley explained that she created a separate account on the balance sheet that shows what amount is left on the loans and the payments made to these loans. This was created so loans and payments won’t be co-mingled with parsonage maintenance expenses. Sally made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. George seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2018:

	As of 09/30/18	As of 08/31/18
Checking	\$ 91,428.65	\$ 85,201.09
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 91,453.65	\$ 85,226.09
Less: Capital Improvements	35,830.57	35,570.57
Less: Designated Funds	30,757.08	30,164.88
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	(2.95)	419.47
Current Budgeted Funds Available	\$ 24,868.95	\$ 19,071.17

Contributions by envelope and plate for September (5 Sundays) were \$11,286.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$8,179.00 giving was \$3,107.00 more than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts exceeded our budgeted amount on four Sundays last month. Envelope giving to date in 2018 totals \$95,693.04 (39 Sundays), and we are \$30,261.04 over budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$91,428.65 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 \$24,868.95.

Our average weekly attendance for September was 48.

Rex Energy – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$3,882.44. September receipts were \$383.34. September disbursements were \$127.78 (Cemetery Association) and \$100.00 (Guardian Angels). Ending balance for September was \$4,038.00.

Parsonage Maintenance Loan Balance is \$20,000.00.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Christman gave his report to council for September. He committed 21 hours to Zion with 237.5 miles driven. This included phone calls, home and hospital visits, council meeting and meeting with St Paul’s. The pastor’s grandmother passed away so he is flying to Washington to attend the funeral. He will return on October 17th, Pastor Dave Saylor will be on call at 412-737-0405.

Visitor – Food Cupboard Addition Update: Sharon Klaiber was at the meeting to give council an update about the timeline for the new Food Cupboard addition. She showed the council the official blueprints that had been drawn up for addition. John Byler hopes to have the foundation dug by the end of October and start the construction by the beginning of November. Sharon explained that the shelves in the existing part of their building are bowing from the weight of the cans and food stored there. She is looking for a way to reinforce the shelves. She is trying to get a grant from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank to help pay for a commercial refrigerator, etc., for the new addition. The addition will be paid for by using the funds from a CD.

Sharon has an attorney creating a lease at no cost between the Food Cupboard and Zion. Zion will lease this location to the Food Cupboard for the next 99 years for \$1.00 a year. We will not require a security deposit. They currently pay Zion \$100.00 a month to defray the cost of electric for their refrigerator. Since it's not an option to put in a separate electric meter in the new addition the stipend for electric will be determined by how much our bill increases. This will be evaluated yearly and changes can be made as needed. Inclusions for the use of the premises include garbage, water and internet. The Food Cupboard will be required to make all repairs on their portion of the building. When the addition is completed we must call our insurance company to make the changes.

Sharon suggested putting guard rails around the building once it is completed. George suggested to, instead, put up bollards. This is still being decided.

Old Business:

Constitution and By-laws: Tom Bickert received the constitution and by-laws back from the Synod for some changes and corrections before they will approve both. The following are the questions made by the synod and our response. C10-04 asked if we wanted to have a percentage of voting members to have a quorum but we will require having 25 voting members. C 12-02 Terms of being on council. All members of council can serve two terms of two years each. This means each member can serve on council for four years. The responsibilities of the Treasurer moved from section C10-99 to section E 11-01. Evelyn made a motion to approve the revised 10-11-18 constitution. Al seconded. Motion passed. As for the by-laws, the Synod said that some were also included in the constitution and asked that there be no redundancy. Tom did not change the wording but removed and rearranged the questioned portions. Two section that were changed were 8:02, how to return to being a voting member and C13:07, Treasurer cannot sign checks and Simply Giving and Thrivent be changed to electronically giving programs. Sally made a motion to approve the by-laws. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Budgets for 2019: George talked to our employees and explained to them that there would be no raises in 2019. He also spoke to Rosemarie and asked her to turn in her receipts for new music so she could be reimbursed. He also wants Vicki to turn in her receipts for cleaning supplies so we will have an idea as to how to budget in the future. Melissa asked for additional monies in the budget for postage and office supplies so the executive committee increased the budget for those expenditures. Sally made a motion to take the budget to the congregation. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed.

November Congregational Meeting: The meeting will be held after worship service on November 18th.

Operation Christmas Child: Linda will talk to Melissa and Marsha about this charity. We may still have shoe boxes left over from last year. We need to give the congregation the information as soon as possible because they need to be sent to the charity in early November.

Tables for Social Hall: The church has \$400.00 from Goldie Rader's memorial fund. Sally suggested that we buy new plastic tables to replace the heavy wooden tables for the social hall. If a member of the congregation would want any of the old wooden tables, please see George. Otherwise the church will dispose of them.

Melissa's days/hours: As you know, Melissa has become a new grandmother. Her daughter -in -law will be returning to work soon and would like Melissa to babysit Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Melissa would like to change her time at Zion to Tuesday and Thursday from 9-2. Council thought this would be agreeable.

Team Reports:

Property: On October 18th Thermal Twin will measure the parsonage for the new windows and install them on November 7th, 8th and 9th. John Byler will install a green metal roof on the parsonage after he's done with the Food Cupboard addition. Jim Muders and Al will work on the electrical in the pavilion later.

Fellowship: Evelyn found a beautiful Christmas card with a Christmas hymn CD included at a cost of \$1.89 each to be given out to members attending Christmas services at Zion. Council agreed this would be a thoughtful gift to the congregation so Evelyn said she would order the cards.

Every Member Involvement: The date for road clean-up may be changed. Check the bulletin board for the sign-up sheet and, if you can help, please sign up. Linda said that she would like to have blood pressure checks start as of the first of the year on the last Sunday of the month.

September Money Counters: 4th: Al & George, 11th: Shirley & Debbie, 18th: Sally & Evelyn, 25th: Pat & Linda

Devotions for September: Shirley

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, November 8th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Muders



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

– COLOSSIANS 3:15 NIV

DID YOU KNOW?

The verse in the middle of the Bible is Psalm 118:8—“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals.”