

Zion Lutheran Church

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

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“If you have nothing nice to say, then don’t say anything at all!” I cannot begin to tell you how many times I heard that as a child – which teaches me two things. One, that I must have said a lot of things that I had no business saying and, two, my son must be just like me! I have said it so often of late that I let him finish the sentence for me. “If you have nothing nice to say...” and with the lack luster enthusiasm of a nine year old (which sounds a lot like Eeyore), I hear, “then say nothing.” But that doesn’t seem to stop him. Moments later I am saying the same thing over again. It is as if he can’t help himself...

Don’t get me wrong, I love being a Dad. I love it! I enjoy it immensely. The yelling, the threats, the whining, and the laziness – honestly, I have a smile on my face right now. I was born for this! I’m good at motivating, empathizing, and encouraging. I get to be a constant coach to my children; doing my best to bring out their best. And on occasion I get to see them at their best. Those moments, when any human is at their best is inspiring. They are powerful moments that echo into eternity.

Jesus says, “If you had the faith the size of a mustard seed you could move mountains.” On occasion I have seen (and you have seen) humans do more than this! Mountains are nothing compared to the human capacity for greatness. Unfortunately, such acts of greatness are often immediately followed by terrible acts of human depravity....

The church calls that depravity sin. It’s inside us, it’s part of us from birth, and we are prone to it. We can’t help ourselves. I see it in myself, I see it in my son, and I see it in others every day. We do the things we don’t want to do and we hurt the people we don’t want to hurt. If we don’t believe that this is true then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Thankfully, sin is not all that we are or all that we do. We are capable of great acts of love and great acts of forgiveness. As such, we must forgive. Forgive others and forgive ourselves. We must acknowledge our wrongs and then move past them towards what is right and good. And, on occasion, we need a reminder that when given the choice between being right and being kind that we should choose kind (google the author). Or in other words, “If you have nothing nice to say, then don’t say anything at all.”

Just a thought.

Pastor Nathaneil

Serving Zion this month

Ushers



October 7: Lisa Shedio
October 14: Bill Gasior
October 21: Tom Meyer
October 28: Patty Cekella

Greeters



October 7: Cindy Latch & Kathy Burg
October 14: Al & Lisel Moser
October 21: Denny & Pam Bintrim
October 28: Doug & Chris Trimble

Money Counters



October 7: Shirley Fichter & Debbie Muders
October 14: Bill Gasior & Al Stephens
October 21: Bill Gasior & Al Stephens
October 28: Linda Armstrong & Pat Pflug

Bulletin Sponsors



October 7: AVAILABLE
October 14: Trimble
October 21: AVAILABLE
October 28: 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.



October 3: 8:00 Worship & Music Team meets

October 11: 7:00 Council meets

October 14: Fellowship Team meets following worship

October 17: 10:00 WELCA meets

October 27: 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Every Wednesday: 7:00 Choir practice



Upcoming Fellowship events are as follows:

October 7: A light lunch will be served, with cake in honor of Robbie Muniz receiving his Bible.

October 14: Harvest Home Sunday.

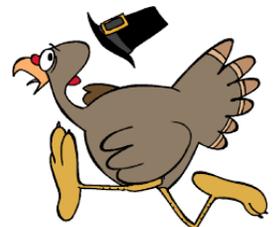
Harvest-theme goodies will be served following worship; birthdays and anniversaries will also be celebrated. Fellowship Team will meet to discuss future events.

October 21: Fellowship Hour

October 28: Reformation Sunday. A "birthday cake" for the church will be served following the worship service, as we celebrate the 501st anniversary of the Reformation.

The Fellowship Team was proud to support Rachel Villegas and Project Te Amo last month with the offering from August 26th Fellowship Hour. Leftover tacos were served following her senior project, and \$175 was donated! Thank you for your generosity!

The Annual Turkey Trot for the Food Cupboard gets underway on October 7th! Please place food items in your favorite turkey's lane, and let's see how much food we can collect for the food cupboard. And don't forget that October 14th is Harvest Home Sunday—another opportunity to show your support for the food cupboard by bringing in donations.



The Gideons International
Spreading the
Good News

On Sunday, October 14th, a representative from the Gideons International Society will be delivering the message. Please plan to be here then to welcome our special speaker!



DEPLOYED OVERSEAS:

Donald A. Davis
386 ELRS/LGRD
APO, AE 09855



I wanted to write this to say thank you for allowing me to hold my senior project fundraiser at Zion. Project Te Amo was a GREAT success & I ended up raising over \$1000 for Operation Serve. Thank you also for the kind donation from the "leftover luncheon". Without your help, my project wouldn't have been the same! Thank you so much again!

*Sincerely,
Rachel Villegas*

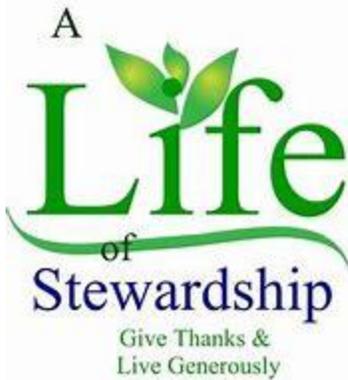
JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

You recently received a letter asking you to update your personal information. If you have not yet returned this, please do so as soon as possible. We are trying to confirm that we have accurate information for all church members.

Men's Bible Study will meet on Saturday morning, October 27th, beginning at 8:00 at Brown's Country Kitchen in Portersville. ALL men of the church are encouraged to attend!



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!



In a small town a man of considerable means died. Everyone was curious to know what he was worth. Sometime later a towns person met the lawyer who was known to be handling the estate. "Would you mind telling me how much he left?" the person asked. "Not at all," the attorney replied. "He left everything he had!" And so will we, "For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world." - I Tim. 6:7.

Dear Friend-in-Christ:

Do you have a Will?

If you are like many of the members of most congregations, only about 50% of you do.

If you already have a will, does it reflect yourself, your family and your church and other interests?

Every adult needs a will – young or old, married or single, whether you have vast riches or meager possessions. You have the opportunity to determine to whom your God-given possessions will be distributed after your passing. And, where minor or dependent children survive, you can name their guardian and appoint the trustee of any property they receive from your estate.

Writing a will is also an opportunity to make a statement of your faith. Through your will you can make a charitable bequest for the ongoing witness of the gospel – through this congregation, our ELCA missionaries, colleges, seminaries, social service agencies, missions at home and overseas or any other cause you deem worthy of your support. Something to think about and consider as you are preparing or revising your will.

2 Cor. 9:7 "Each one should give, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty: for God loves a cheerful giver."

Luke 12:20 "God said, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you and you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?'"

We should not serve God to earn His approval; we should serve God because we are in love with Him!

Sally Measel, Stewardship Team

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!

Celebrating
175
Years

"Glorifying God, serving the Lord Jesus Christ, and sharing Him with the world."



Minutes of Council Meeting, Thursday, September 13, 2018

Attendees: Shirley Fichter, Bill Gasior,, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Al Stephens, Evelyn Stephens, Pastor Nathaneil Christman

Absent: George Measel, Sally Measel

Devotions: Bill opened the meeting with devotions concerning Social Ministry specifically, New Start. This outreach ministry provides furniture and household items to people in need. Sharing God’s love with others brings joy to the volunteer’s lives and hope to the people they help.

Secretary’s Report: There were no corrections to last month’s Secretary’s Report. Shirley made a motion to approve. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: August 2018

	As of 08/31/18	As of 07/31/18
Checking	\$ 85,201.09	\$ 74,499.81
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 85,226.09	\$ 74,524.81
Less: Capital Improvements	35,570.57	15,150.57
Less: Designated Funds	30,164.88	26,699.13
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	419.47	243.88
Current Budgeted Funds Available	\$ 19,071.17	\$ 32,431.23

Contributions by envelope and plate for August (4 Sundays) were \$9,515.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$6,543.20 giving was \$2,971.80 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 \$82,091.04 (34 Sundays), and we are \$26,473.84 over budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$85,201.09 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 \$19,071.17.

Our average weekly attendance for August was 57.

Rex Energy – Miscellaneous (Account #980)

Opening Balance was \$3,633.33. August receipts were \$373.67. August disbursements were \$124.56 (Cemetery Association). Ending balance for August was \$3,882.44.

Mission Investment Fund

On August 2, 2018 our CD in the amount of \$8,450.17 was automatically renewed for 2 years at a fixed rate of 1.440%. It will mature on August 2, 2020.

Shirley explained that the church will have a CD coming due in December. She also said that as of now the church is in good financial shape. Evelyn made a motion to approve the report. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Nathaneil gave his report to council for the month of August. He committed 17.5 hours to Zion with 113 miles driven. This included phone calls, home visits, council meeting and attendance at our joint picnic with St. Paul’s. Evelyn asked Pastor if he could call Denny Bintrim as he is dealing with severe back problems. Also, Shirley

asked if he could call Pat Givens since her health problems have persisted. If anyone has any prayer concerns, please tell a council member and we will pass that along to Pastor Christman.

Visitor – Food Cupboard Update: Sharon Klaiber from the Food Cupboard gave the council an update for the upcoming addition to the building. There is already a building permit posted on the door and she has a tentative starting date as mid-October. John Byler, the contractor, has ordered the trusses and double doors. Al told Sharon that the material for construction could be dropped off near the building but not in the grass. The timeline for construction is a month to a month and a half depending on the weather. Sharon showed the council a rendering of the new addition which will add about 512 square feet to the Food Cupboard.

Sharon told the council that approximately 68 – 78 individuals and families receive donations from the Food Cupboard. These people are not only in need of this food but extremely grateful to receive this monthly donation. With the additional space, Sharon said they will be able to receive more fresh food and more variety of food from the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. She hopes to be able to purchase 2 – 3 glass door refrigerators at a cost of \$2,000.00 each.

The Wish Tree will resume in December for gifts to the children of families receiving donations from the Food Cupboard. We will store the gifts downstairs so there will be no peeking.

Sharon asked if anyone knows the history of our Food Cupboard. Evelyn said she knows some of it. It was started with an agreement by 3 local churches: Zion, Calvin Presbyterian and Grace in Harmony. It has always been housed here at Zion. The Rotary helped build the addition for the Food Cupboard. There are now 10 churches involved. If any member knows more, please tell Evelyn.

Right now, there is only a verbal agreement between the Food Cupboard and Zion to house their goods on our property. Sharon thought it might be a good idea to sign a lease for the next 50 – 100 years for \$1.00 a month so it would be legal to be on the church property since they are spending a lot of money for the addition. The council will look into this matter.

Old Business:

Constitution/By-Laws: Our constitution was sent to the Synod in November, 2017. They sent it back with corrections so we could do the by-laws. Bill passed around the new by-laws and corrected constitution and asked if there were any questions. Al questioned the time the council members could serve. Council members serve 2 years. Executive officers serve 1 year but can extend to 2 years. No council member can serve for more than 2 years but can be off council for a year and then serve again. One thing we learned was the Executive Officers should be elected by written ballot. Please know that there will be spots empty on council for next year. Please search your hearts and volunteer to serve God and Zion in these rewarding positions.

Roll Call: Evelyn has received more letters back. Carol Reubi and her children Christine and Andrew have requested to be removed from our rolls. Marjorie Richards has also requested to be removed. Since both families have made a motion to be deleted from our rolls the council unanimously approved the motion. Evelyn has received 8 – 10 letters back with no forwarding address plus the phone number is invalid. Council will decide whether to remove these people from our rolls. Evelyn advised the council that a dozen members still have the Newsletter mailed to them.

New Business:

Turkey Trot for Food Cupboard: This will start the first Sunday in October. Our turkeys will be named Steelers, Pirates and Penguins. Harvest Home will start the second Sunday of October. Please remember to bring your donations for both. Thank you in advance for your generosity as always.

Meeting at St. Paul's: As reported before, there will be a meeting at St Paul's on September 25th. We would like to be advised of their church's finances to make sure they are able to pay for half of the new pastor's salary. Pastor Nathaneil said that if at any time in the future they would not be financially able to fulfil their obligations the contract would be null and void.

Call Committee: The council is inviting the call committee to attend our next meeting. Interviews are not to be confidential, just the details of those interviews.

Donation for Pastor Susie: We are all so sorry to hear of the loss of Pastor Susie's sweet dog, Maggie. The council has decided to send a \$100.00 donation in Maggie's name to Armstrong's Healing Heroes, an organization that provides service dogs to disabled Veterans. Bill made a motion to donate. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Team Reports:

Property: Al got more bids for the replacement of parsonage windows. Claire Boring, of Butler, gave a bid of \$6,290.00. But that is for only the windows, not the sashes. Thermal Twin gave an estimate of \$9,937.00 which Al recommends. The warrantee is basically the same as Window World but almost \$3,000.00 less expensive. The council would like to get approval from the congregation to proceed with this repair at our meeting on September 30th.

Fellowship: Oct. 7th: Robbie receives Bible, Oct. 14th: Birthday/Anniversary, Everything apple/pumpkin, Fellowship meeting, Oct. 28th: Reformation Sunday (don't forget to wear red), cake & coffee.

Every Member Involvement/Meeting Human Needs: The Turkey Trot will be beginning soon! This year's theme will be Pittsburgh sports team face off, so be sure to throw your support towards your favorite hometown team.

Linda has also volunteered to hold FREE blood pressure monitoring after select Sundays beginning in mid-October. Road cleanup is tentatively scheduled for October 12th pending sign up participation.

Sharon Klaiber from the Food Cupboard came to the council meeting to provide an update, Sharon outlined that the Food Cupboard provides products for an average of 68 - 70 singles and families a month. As a council we agreed to allow the Wish Tree gifts to be stored at Zion for a few days leading up to the event.

Christian Education: Shirley has ordered Sunday school material for the next 3 years. Pam Ferrainolo has volunteered to teach Sunday school. Shirley will make sure she has leader guides for every age group. Linda asked if we could have a hymn sing in December. It was suggested that when WELCA passes out fruit baskets to the shut-ins we could sing Christmas carols to them. Shirley suggested that we send out a Calling Post message for Gideon Sunday and Harvest Home.

Worship & Music: Worship team met with Rosemarie and all of the worship assistants present on Sept. 5. Pam F. opened with prayer for various members of the church and continuing to support our church. The choir has resumed practice, the robes have been cleaned, and the choir plans to sing for the first time on Sept. 23. Thank you to Beth Cummings for helping to arrange for the robe cleaning. The choir is still looking for new members. Oct. 7 will be a special service of communion with Pastor Susie and lots of familiar children's songs. Robbie Muniz will receive his Bible. Oct. 14 is scheduled as Gideon Sunday and Harvest Home. A representative from the Gideon's will be here to deliver the message, and Harvest Home will support our local Food Cupboard. October 28 is REFORMATION SUNDAY, and Pastor Susie is scheduled to be here for communion. Remember to wear your red on that Sunday. It has been 501 years since Martin Luther started the reformation of the church.

Worship assistants were assigned for October, and they are now responsible for lighting the candles and extinguishing them. Children are still welcome to learn how to help with the candles. Also remember to use the prayer cards at the back of the church if desired and the worship assistants will pick them up. Pam F. will reserve musician Dan Schall for Oct. 2019. Marsha D. plans to send out cards to the children of our congregation and those that attended Bible School to see if there is an interest in a Christmas pageant for this year. It would probably be held on a Sunday afternoon. She already has some books with ideas and needs our support.

Tom B. reminded us that Council needs to approve the revised by-laws and our Constitution as required by our Synod. The next meeting of the worship team will be Oct. 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Executive Committee: They are working on the budget for the Congregational meeting in November.

September Money Counters: 7th: Shirley & Debbie, 14th: Bill & Al, 21st: Bill & Al, 28th: Linda & Pat.

Devotions for September: Pat Pflug

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, October 11th.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Muders