

2014 YEAR END REPORTS

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Harmony, Pennsylvania

Staff: Rev. Barbara E. Love, Pastor; Mrs. Rosemarie Zebell, Music Director; Mrs. Vicki Moyer, Sexton; Mrs. Sally Hamilton, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Zion's Church Council for 2014

Ross Cummings, *President & Cemetery*

Beth Cummings, *Fellowship*

Alan Nulph, *Education & Youth*

Kathleen Burg, *Meeting Human Needs*

Don Olson, *Property, Cemetery*

Chris Trimble, *Stewardship*

Tom Meyer, *Vice Pres. & Worship*

George Measel, *Secretary*

Chuck Ferrainolo, *Every Member Involvement*

Deacons for 2014

Pam Ferrainolo, Marsha Davis, Ken Strohecker, Tom Meyer, Kathy Gilkey, MaryBeth Martsolf and Alana Nulph

Zion Lutheran Church Treasurer – April Hatch

President of our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) – Cindy Latch

Church Statistics for 2014

Baptisms: (0) –

First Communions: (3) Hunter Nulph, Brett Davis, Lydia Wright

Confirmations: (4) Alana Nulph, Hali Johns, Justin Rubright, and Beau Mulbauer

Weddings: (3) – Casey McCaffrey & Anthony Durso, Kristen Latch & Thomas Denning, Tasha Walter & Gregory Fecich

Members' Deaths: (1) – Susan Cravener

New Members Received: (1) Eric Love

Letters of Transfer: (4) Darrell & Terry Miller, Paul & Karen Rader

Removed From Rolls: (91)

2014 Membership Records: Baptized Members 315, Confirmed Members 238

Average Worship Attendance – 66

Zion's Church Council for 2015

Chuck Ferrainolo, Tom Meyer, Chris Trimble, Marsha Davis, Alan Nulph, George Measel, Melissa Painter, Diane Goehring, and Carla Wright, and Treasurer:

Deacons for 2015

Pam Ferrainolo, Marsha Davis, Ken Strohecker, Tom Meyer, Kathy Gilkey, Alana Nulph and Shane Domhoff

President of our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) – Cindy Latch

PLEASE NOTE: The Treasurer's Year End Report is not enclosed in this newsletter because this was printed prior to the end of the year. The Treasurer's Year End Report will be in the February newsletter and available at the January Congregational Meeting.

Executive Committee Report 2014

2014 might be summed up as a year of tearing down, rebuilding, and shining a light where it was needed. The church sign is a good example: it was destroyed by catastrophe, torn down, cleaned up, rebuilt, and now better than new - though some would say it needs a little bit more "light" in places. The choir and altar areas got more light too. Last winter, many a light was shed on the boiler on the coldest nights of the winter until a solution was found and warmth restored.

In a sense, the work of the Congregational Mission Team and Zion's Council struggled similarly. The mission team worked to redefine our purpose, our guiding principles, and our mission goals. Council looked at trends that threaten the long term viability of our congregation. Then they defined council's strategic priorities. In their efforts to shine a light on weak spots, both groups want a bright future for Zion, one with a strong, growing, energetic, faithful, serving congregation – serving Christ, serving others, and serving each other.

Peace and Blessings,
Ross Cummings

Stewardship Report 2014

As you have seen we are behind in our giving but have been able to pay the bills. We were very fortunate to not use all of our budget. It has helped that many people have joined the Simply Giving Program. With these funds we are over our weekly needed amount twice a month. If you haven't joined us in this program yet, think about it. It is very easy to start and even easier to do each month. I want to thank each of you for faithfully giving your time and talents to keep our church the wonderful church that it is.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Trimble

Cemetery Association Report 2014

In 2014, the cemetery association buried 3 people. Ruth Manol's remains were interred in January. We buried Meghan Mercadante in February. Meghan was Paul & Karen Radar's niece. In December we buried Phyllis Schidemantle. We had one body exhumed and moved to another cemetery at the family's request.

We replaced the garage door on the shed, and plan to get electric into shed to charge mower batteries and supply light. There are no windows in the shed.

George Measel

Meeting Human Needs - 2014 Summary

In April of 2014, Sharon Klaiber, LPC, NCC, became the new director of the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard (SWBFC). Sharon is as a Licensed Psychotherapist and had held leadership positions in several community outreach groups which made her a perfect fit at our Food Cupboard. Sharon streamlined processes and procedures that improved our efficiencies at the SWBFC and initiated two new fundraisers: the Food Cupboard Fall Vendor Show and the Gold Canyon Fundraiser. Sharon also organized a reverse Trick or Treating, hosted a November Chick Flick and food drive, and in December she organized a Food Drive at Mathew Jewelers; all new programs to the SWBFC. As of November, the SWBFC had 78 Singles and 44 Families, not to mention our many Seniors, which receive benefit from additional Federal subsidies.

Large donations can be accepted by calling 724-453-4184 to make arrangements. Small donations can be left inside the large benches that sit directly outside the Zion Food Cupboard

Once again the SWBFC is enrolled in "Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH)." Since 1991 the Hunter's Sharing the Harvest venison donation program, has coordinated the processing and distribution of donated wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to food cupboards throughout Pennsylvania. An average-sized deer will provide enough highly-nutritious, low-cholesterol meat for up to 200 meals. This sportsmen-inspired community service outreach effectively channels this wholesome venison product via an integrated network of approved deer processors and food banks down to the most local charitable provider organizations in our urban and rural communities. HSH has evolved as a respected partner with deer management practices throughout the Commonwealth. Tom Rossman is our contact at Camp Lutherlyn and Tom will call the SWBFC when a donation has been made in our food cupboard's name. Then it is the responsibility of the director to return the call and arrange for a timely pickup of the venison for distribution. Participating approved deer processors can be found at: <http://www.sharedeer.org/meat-processors/>. If there is not a deer processor listed for your county/location please call 1-866-474-2141 or 717-512-8534.

Kathy Burg

Worship Committee Report 2014

The Worship Committee Team continued to oversee the worship and music life of our (your) congregation.

The Lay Communion callers were used to take and serve communion to our members in nursing care facilities, homebound, etc.

The Deacons took over the Sunday Worship services when Pastor was on vacation and/or ill. We not only enjoyed doing this, but it saved the Church the expense of replacement pastor.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. We ask you, the congregation, to contact Pastor Love or any Deacon with your input, opinion, thoughts, etc. Let us know "directly" what you feel is right/wrong with your worship service: what you would like to change, add, delete, etc. Your feedback is very important and appreciated.

The Worship Committee Team is constantly working to improve the quality of our (your) worship services, trying to make the WORD OF GOD easier to understand and enjoy.

God Bless,
Tom Meyer

Pastor's Report 2014

2014 has been a good year. We continue to lift up the work of renewing our congregation. Last year in February 2013, we saw a new team begun. This team is the Mission Discerning Team. After a year-long study and working, we met with community leaders to assess how much Zion was known in the community and how could we help in our community. We worked hard on coming up with a purpose statement and 5 guiding principles. They are:

Purpose Statement:

God's Purpose For Our Church Is: To Be Together Growing In Christ To Be his Message To Others

5 Guiding Principles

1. **Jesus Is Lord And Savior, Who Calls Us To Lives Of Gracious Love and Forgiveness.**
2. **We Study God's Word With Listening Hearts.**
3. **We Encourage and Support Each Other To Discover And Use Our Talents.**
4. **We Value Diverse Ideas And Suggestions.**
5. **We Go Where We Are Being Called.**

After establishing these, the Team set about presenting a study on Acts with the congregation during the weekly worship services in May. After the study was completed, an Event was held on Sunday, June 1st and the purpose statement and guidelines were presented. The time closed with a gourmet meal and time for discussion by the congregation.

After the gathering of these resources, further study was offered to the congregation on Wednesday evenings in July on the book used by the team in their discernment: Living Lutheran by Dave Daubert.

Next the Team did a brainstorming session using the statement: "In 4 years Zion Lutheran Church will be a stronger, more effective congregation because we are..." Four goals were identified and were presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 5th in an all-congregation event. That Sunday, Rev. Dr. Blair Morgan preached and the Team presented the Goals with story boards. The congregation had a lunch and time to enter input at each story board by the use of cards. The Goals are listed here:

GOAL ONE

IN 4 YEARS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE CONGREGATION BECAUSE WE ARE... **STANDING TOGETHER IN UNITY**

- ⑨ United in Purpose
- ⑨ Working as one to draw new people into our church.
- ⑨ A connective family
- ⑨ Attracting others to help serve
- ⑨ The congregation is in agreement around going forward—which may mean letting go of individual agendas.
- ⑨ Matching our gifts to the missions we adopt.
- ⑨ Valuing the gifts of those who are the core remnant.
- ⑨ Strong at the core and radiate outward our purpose and mission.

GOAL TWO

IN 4 YEARS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE CONGREGATION BECAUSE WE ARE... **HUNGRY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

- ⑨ Each member will be able to state what it means to be a Child of God. To state what purpose and action God is calling them too.
- ⑨ Teaching the word of God
- ⑨ Whole congregation actively interested in mentoring the young people in faith and calling.
- ⑨ We are a center of help and education and spiritual growth.
- ⑨ For the congregation to see the need to be gathered in prayer on all issues.
- ⑨ More groups studying Scripture beyond Sunday School.
- ⑨ Telling who we are and why we are.

GOAL THREE

IN 4 YEARS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE CONGREGATION BECAUSE WE ARE... **OPEN TO THE CHALLENGE OF NEW DIRECTIONS.**

- ⑨ Willing to grow and learn.
- ⑨ Trying to be open to new ideas.
- ⑨ Bringing joy to those we help and in doing so bring peace to ourselves.
- ⑨ To move beyond numbers and money to be centered on what God is calling us to be and to do.
- ⑨ We are open to new ideas and challenges.

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GOAL FOUR

IN 4 YEARS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE CONGREGATION
BECAUSE WE ARE... **REACHING OUT TO AND WELCOMING IN OUR NEIGHBORS**

- ⑨ That we may be a more visible congregation in the community known for love of God called into action for others.
- ⑨ Opening our fellowship building to community activities.
- ⑨ Offer diverse opportunities to attract all age groups.
- ⑨ Committed to growing into the 21st Century.
- ⑨ More visible in the community.
- ⑨ Develop a joint youth group with all churches.
- ⑨ Want to become a larger part of our community.
- ⑨ Inviting programs into our church that appeal to this community.
- ⑨ Telling who we are and why we are.
- ⑨ Continuing food cupboard.
- ⑨ Support "Feed My Sheep"
- ⑨ Support other congregations in their ministry.
- ⑨ Active in the schools volunteering time to grow young leaders.

The Team is now working on a four-year plan using the congregation's input cards. It is hoped that this will be completed to present to council in early 2015. The Team worked hard together. It was a commitment of time on their parts and we are truly thankful to them for their hard work. And for the input of the congregation through this time and the support given to the team, we are truly thankful.

The new grief group added in 2013 has now experienced a new direction and growth. The group is using the material from GriefShare and has expanded to a program that is 13 weeks long. It has been opened to the community and we are on file at the local funeral homes as a location for grieving people to come for support in their grieving. The first group is now coming to a close and had 14 persons beside the 3 presenters. It has been a good outreach program and has been a good program in benefiting those in grief. Thanks to Trudy Levere who presented the idea and is a presenter and to Tom Meyer who also is a presenter. It has been a joy to work with them in this endeavor.

Another new program this year was a new way of doing Rally Day and Church. The program is God's Work Our Hands and is a day when the whole Church goes out to work in the world. This year we had a brief worship service before the many dressed in bright yellow shirts went out to do God's work. Some yellow shirts went to Lutherlyn where we did various jobs for the camp in preparing for the winter. Another group of yellow shirts stayed at Zion and did crafts for our shut-ins and for Meals on Wheels. They also wrote cheerful notes to service men and shut-ins. It was a good day of spiritual uplifting. Sammy Domhoff said the sermon for the day was all about God and what he has done for us and what we can do for others. We closed with our usual Rally Day fare for lunch thanks to Chris Trimble and friends who prepared this meal. We closed by beginning to watch the opening game for the Steelers before going home. It was not such a good day for the Steelers but for Zion it was one that will go down in history as a great day.

VBS had another good year with many children in attendance from our community. The youth were great helpers and the many volunteers, not only from Zion but also from English and St. Paul, we worked together once again. Thank you to everyone who helped in many ways. You are the ones who make this time special. The youth in the afternoon had a time of being together. We shopped for the Food Cupboard, went to Lutheran Day at Kennywood and cleaned Cindy Latch's yard. The teens ended with a lock-in and planning for what the youth of Zion could do to enliven the youth group and make a Sunday morning time especially for the age group after confirmation.

We have seen a good year as once more the word of God has been preached and taught. We still have our usual four Sunday School classes that meet on Sunday morning and this year the addition of a teen class. Thank you to all the dedicated teachers: Emily & Patty Cekella, Vicki Moyer, Pam Ferrainolo, Tom Davis, and Kathy Gilkey who mentors the teen-led class.

Catechism still meets on Sunday morning with 8 students and myself. Some new techniques of learning have been incorporated since the class is mostly boys. It is a totally Christian Education way of using cards and dice. They are learning the books of the Old Testament very well. We confirmed 4 students this year also. The beat goes on.

We had participation in the Stay At Home Mission Camp this year. I worked with the youth and was the devotional leader for the camp. A good time was had by all and the Pirates won the game that we attended. These youth do a great job in helping those who need someone to care. The theme was: "Becoming our Prayers". If you would like to read more about it look in the October 2014 Lutheran.

In worship we have once again experienced some different ways of worship. Word and Sacrament has been the center of all the forms of worship this year.

We continue to support and house the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard. Many local families have been helped. Thanks to all who work at the Food Cupboard and all who contribute to the Food Cupboard.

We are still reaching around the world as we support 3 missionaries: Rev. Austin and Tanya Propst and Susan Smith. We were delighted by a visit from Susan Smith in June as she brought to us the word from Central Africa. And we still support thorough the Sunday School our student in Africa, Kennedy. This year also we supported Alana Nulph and Marsha Davis as they made a trip to Madagascar.

Thank you to all who helped with a dinner to help Dennis Graham with his hospital bills. It was a success in not only helping Dennis but in bringing us together to help another and to get to know each other better. Thank you, Chef Chuck.

Zion is doing well and doing a lot of good. Let us continue to hold this church in prayer and continue to look for new ways of serving the Lord.

Respectfully Submitted, *Pastor Barbara E. Love*

2014 Fellowship Report

The fellowship team met four times this year to plan activities. We started the year with dinner out at Nico Lucianno's and celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a potluck lunch after service.

The owners of Complete Travel joined us in the Spring for a taco lunch and discussed popular travel destinations. Derby Day fellowship was postponed so that we could work on the Spaghetti Dinner to help Dennis Graham with health care costs. The Father's Day grill was not a complete rain out, but high winds forced the men inside for dinner.

Thanks to Frank Porter for leading our softball team through another winning season!

We saw the play, "Odd Couple" at the Red Barn, and topped off the busy VBS week with an outdoor movie at the picnic shelter. The children stayed after the Bible School program and enjoyed the movie "Frozen". We closed out a busy summer with the annual congregation picnic, followed by mini golf and bingo games. The congregation dined at Mary's Restaurant in New Castle in September, and worked on acquiring a section of Route 19 for the "Adopt a Highway" program.

We sampled the best of the "best" appetizers for the holidays and chose the featured Hot Onion Dip recipe submitted by Chris Trimble as the Zion favorite. We hosted a Christmas concert for the Ellwood City Area Civic Chorale on December 21, and celebrated first communion, graduations, confirmation, Jesus' birthday, and Zion's anniversary with special fellowships.

Many thanks to Shirley Fichter, Debbie Muders, Chris Trimble, Mary Beth Martsolf, Kim Muntz, Ken Strohecker, Pat Pflug, Melissa Painter, and Saundi Hoffman for helping with all of our activities.

Special thanks to Kathy Gilkey for making coffee each week and providing snacks following church service. The congregation really enjoys that time after church to just relax and chat.

Suggestions for next year's activities have been offered and include the Souper Supper and Oyster Stew evening, a crock pot or chili fellowship, Sunday dinner at the Ladies of the Dukes, and a trip to Das Dutch Village.

Thank you for giving me the chance to serve Zion,

Beth Cummings

WELCA Report 2014

The mission statement for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America calls for a "community of women created in the image of God called to the discipleship in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, encourage one another and engage in ministry and action to promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world."

Here at Zion our group consists of fifteen dedicated and devoted women to do our part in our church (funeral luncheons, Ash Wednesday lunch, a Lenten dinner, Mother-Daughter banquet, Christmas baskets for our shut-ins and staff), in our community (our Clothing-Rummage Sale, Easter baskets for victims of domestic violence, visits to our shut-ins) and for the world (year-end distributions to charitable organizations).

We educate ourselves with the Bible and support one another at all times. We are trying very hard to follow our WELCA mission statement here at Zion.

In Jesus Name, *Cindy Latch, President*

Every Member Involvement Team Report 2014

This year's main project was the 2014 Zion Pictorial Directory. The team did a great job planning, implementing, and producing the new directory. Thank you EMI Team for all your hard work. The final product should be arriving soon! Along with this project we also revised and updated our church membership rolls. This was done to better reflect our current church memberships and contact information. We have also expanded service with Church Wide Call Service that notifies members of important events at Zion, this also includes calls for the Prayer Chain.

Respectfully submitted, *Chuck Ferrainolo*

Youth Group 2014 Report

Heather Poole, for her Senior Project, took over seeing that Kids' Club would happen for the elementary kids at Zion. Heather did a good job of incorporating the other youth in taking part in having activities for the kids. This worked well. Movies, crafts, lunch together, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter egg hunt are some of the activities that Kids' Club did. Thank you Heather and friends.

The youth again had frequent lock-ins throughout the year. Our young people delighted us as we got to see and meet many minor prophets as emcee Alana Nulph ran the mid-week Lenten prophet talk show. Many of the youth also appeared as disciples for the Seder Meal. The sunrise service was set up and worship was led by the youth group. Also once again they fed us Easter Breakfast thanks to the help and skill of their mothers.

Once again several youth attended Youthfest at Lutherlyn. The program was very inspiring to the youth. Many youth went to Camp Blast this year and enjoyed the use of the camp for the day. Camp Blast always starts with worship and ends with worship.

Again the youth helped with VBS. It is great to see the care and support that they give to the kids. And if truth be told, the young kids give the older kids care and support also. We had many different youth helping, some who had attended VBS when they were little and many from Zion and English Lutheran and St. Paul's. In the afternoon we did things as a youth group. Monday we shopped for the Food Cupboard. Thank you to those in the congregation who gave money for the youth to go shopping. They learned many things on this day. Tuesday we went to Lutheran Day at Kennywood. It was fun and they worshiped in the middle of Kennywood. On Wednesday, we made Cindy Latch's yard look like Better Homes and Gardens. Thursday they prepared water day for the VBS kids. Our youth have a natural talent for getting people wet. They closed out Thursday with a lock-in and planning for how to continue youth group. It was good to sit around the fire and talk.

Youth participated in Rally Day, wearing their Zion yellow shirts. They also raked leaves for June Miller this fall. Special thanks to Carl Miller who showed the youth a more productive way of raking leaves.

A Halloween lock-in that the rain and cold kept us from going to the Maze (they were closed). It also didn't work well for a fire. It became an indoor watch of all hallows eve. But ping pong, Bubble Talk, and sardines filled in the holes. There was time to go to the English Zion Cemetery to find out about the angel of death and the ax murder. S'mores in the microwave and talk all night was great fun. There have also been trips to the zoo and the science center in Pittsburgh.

In the fall, the youth organized and oversaw Operation Christmas Child for the congregation. Altogether, 28 boxes were assembled and delivered to this worthy cause.

The youth would like to thank Vicki Moyer for being a good sport and staying overnight and Shane Domhoff who stepped in when Vicki couldn't. Transportation and chaperoning has been by Melinda and Eric Johns, Gwen Nulph, Linda and Jess Armstrong, Kathy Gilkey, Marsha Davis and Shane Domhoff. Thanks for the lift.

Thanks to all in the congregation who support the youth and pray for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Love

Property Committee Report 2014

The major project for 2014 was the rebuilding of the front porch on the parsonage. Time had rotted the wood frame of the porch to the extent that a complete rebuild was the only solution.

As has occurred in the past several years we have had to do work to the church roof. This time the cause was more normal wear and tear rather than the wind damage as in past years. However, the wind did not ignore us as we had late year wind damage to the parsonage roof.

As this is written it appears that the bladder tank in the water well system has failed. This is a sort of the "unkindest cut of all" in that we will have city water in the next few months which renders the bladder tank unnecessary.

And, of course, the year would not have been complete without the destruction of our front sign. While the new sign is substantially complete there remains some tweaking of the lighting to be completed.

This report will conclude my term as property chair. I wish to thank all the many people who have assisted me over the past four years.

Respectively submitted,
Don Olson