

Zion Lutheran Church

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

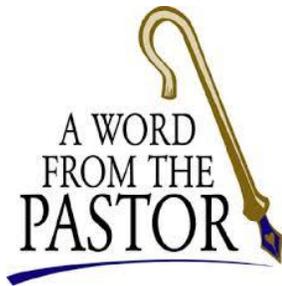
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## Are you free?

You know the Exodus story, that's the one that ends with Moses raising his staff and the Red Sea dividing so that God's people can leave Egypt.... So they walk across the bottom of the Sea and after they have crossed Moses raises his staff again, the sea crashes down, and Pharaoh's army is washed away. After which, the people are free from slavery and the tyranny of Egypt. Or so I always thought. I have since learned that it is a little more complicated than that. The story itself is not necessarily any more complicated but the understanding of freedom most certainly is.

While the people were free in body they were slaves yet in mind and spirit. Simply put, they didn't know how to be free. It is for this reason that God doesn't give them the Promised Land right away. They don't know what to do with it. They don't know how to treat one another or care for another's needs. They don't know how to own something or how to govern. They have been told what to do, how to do it, and when to do it for so long that they can't think or act for themselves. Now that they are free in body they will need to think for themselves and act for themselves and for one another. With freedom comes responsibility. So, God sends them to Mount Sinai so that they may receive the basic foundation on which to become a nation. The basic building blocks for a country. You could call it their Constitution. Most Christians call it the 10 Commandments.

The 10 commandments lay down the basic guidelines in order to maintain freedom and not fall back into slavery. If a person or a people is obedient to these guidelines they will be free, if not, they will become slaves. I'll give an example, "Do not steal": in a society where theft is acceptable, the people spend their time defending what they have or plotting ways to take what others have. The people cease to prosper and grow and the people become slaves. As a general rule, in a free society, theft cannot become a norm. For the most, I bet you would agree with me on that. What about the other commandments? Murder, False Accusations, Obedience to parents. Perhaps you would agree with these as well. What about Coveting? What about Adultery? What about belief in God? What about Sabbath? Are these important to maintaining a free society?

Let's explore Sabbath. Do you often feel that you "need a day off"? That you need a break from the constant grind of life? That you should spend more quality time with family and friends? That you should take more time to do the things that you enjoy and make you a better person? That you should take a break and just be the person that God has made you to be? Do you ever grow tired of the constant running around? The constant "TO DO" list? Have you been putting off your "bucket list" indefinitely? Sabbath was meant for these things. A chance to unwind from your busy life, to recenter and refocus. To better yourself and the people around you. To take the time to "smell the roses" less your life pass and you never bother to notice just how good they smell. Seriously, when was the last time you smelled a rose? Have you become a slave to the clock?

I fear that most of the people I know have given up their freedom and taken on the yoke of slavery. I fear that most of us, myself included, have become slaves by ignoring some of the most ancient, simple, and common sense guidelines. Guidelines designed to keep us free.

So what are we going to do about it?

I invite you to consider the 10 Commandments. Pick one that you are not good at and pray about and

work at it. I have a hunch that most of us this time of year are not taking time for Sabbath so perhaps that is a good place for you to start. In which case, attend a place of worship; make time to better yourself and others. Take a break from the world and get re-centered. Then you can decide what's next.

Just a thought.

*Pastor Nathaneil*

## Serving Zion this month

### Ushers



January 6: Sally Measel  
January 13: Eric Painter  
January 20: Earl Goehring  
January 27: Linda Armstrong

### Greeters



January 6: Debbie Muders & Sally Davis  
January 13: Jeff & Jodi Miller  
January 20: Eric & Melissa Painter  
January 27: Ed & Vicki Moyer

### Money Counters



January 6: Bill Gasior & George Measel  
January 13: Shirley Fichter & Debbie Muders  
January 20: Evelyn Stephens & Sally Measel  
January 27: Pat Pflug & Linda Armstrong

### Bulletin Sponsors



January 6: Domhoff  
January 13: Available  
January 20: Available  
January 27: Trimble

- 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.



|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Wednesday, January 2  | 8:00 Worship & Music Team  |
| January 5             | 9:00 12:00 Council Retreat |
| Sunday, January 13    | Fellowship Team meets      |
| Wednesday, January 16 | 10:00 WELCA meets          |
| Sunday, January 27    | Congregation Meeting       |
| Every Wednesday       | 7:00 Choir rehearsal       |

The Annual **Council Retreat** will take place on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This is a very important meeting for ALL council members to attend, as Team assignments will be made and the Council will determine the direction that Zion will take in the new year. Donuts and coffee will be available for breakfast, and a light lunch will be served afterward.



On January 27<sup>th</sup> we will have our **Annual Congregation Meeting** here at Zion. This meeting will take place right after our service. This year, we will be voting on yoking with St. Paul Lutheran Church, so this is an extremely important meeting! **Annual Giving Statements** will be available sometime during January. Please look for yours on the table in the entryway so that we don't have to mail them.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** are now available. If you haven't picked yours up yet, they are in the fellowship hall.



January 6: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration with cake and ice cream  
January 13: Fellowship hour  
January 20: Fellowship hour  
January 27: Congregation meeting after our worship service, bring your favorite dish to share for our POTLUCK DINNER



RYYR is a non-profit, Christian ministry that connects horses in need of rescue with local children dealing with serious challenges and difficulties. In 2010, God blessed the founders, Micheline and Matthew Barkley, with fifty acres of land in Beaver County. Their desire is to combine her broken childhood in Vietnam and the US and his equestrian experience to rescue horses and mentor children. Even though it has not been easy, they are doing just that.

Their program is for children ages 8 through 18 where one child, one horse and one mentor are connected for 90 minute sessions once a week, free of charge. The children learn how to groom, tack up and ride the horses. Or they can go fishing, do gardening, or do arts and crafts. The mentors pray with and for the children. The goal is to make sure the children feel and see God's love in all their experiences at the ranch through the help of the mentor and the horse.

**The Stewardship Team added an envelope in your 2019 box in January to contribute to this work.** The Synodical WELCA had RYYR as their designated outreach for 2018. Several of our WELCA ladies met Micheline Barkley last spring and a couple times since. The rescued horses and underprivileged children being served here every year is a wonderful ministry to both. **The hope is that you will consider giving them some financial support by using the January extra envelope. Also, look for the table at Zion where we will be collecting paper towels and toilet paper for RYYR during January.** Small things can go a long way in allowing them to use their resources more effectively.

RYYR's philosophy is "Love the child, save the horse, give Hope and Strength through faith".

Sally Measel, Stewardship Team

## OUR 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

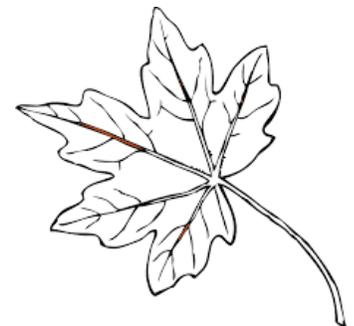
**Now that we have completed our year of celebration, we are happy to say that our “Anniversary Tree” campaign was a resounding success! Many people donated money for a leaf on our tree, and we were able to raise \$7,705.00! This money will be put to good use refurbishing the steeple of our church. Leaves were given in memory or in honor of someone, or simply to the glory of God.**

### **Given in loving memory of:**

My husband, Bob Barkley  
My sister, Bertha (McClymonds) Barrett  
Bob Barkley and Dorothy & Arthur Suhr  
Abby Domhoff  
Our Loved Ones  
Charles & Geraldine Burg  
The Burgh & Plesniak Families  
Charles & Marie Burgh  
Irene Burgh  
My parents  
William Collins  
Tom & Ruth Manol  
Chuck & Lois Davis  
Abby Domhoff (2)  
John & Marsella Esseck  
Patricia Grubbs  
Leroy Hall  
Leroy Hall  
Leroy Hall  
Bea & Lillian Warner  
Bertha Scott, Ron Scott, Nancy & Ken Strohecker  
Ken & Nancy Strohecker  
Leo & Valerie Jezovnik  
Frank & Laura Grant  
Our parents  
My mother, Beulah McCormick  
My granddaughter, Bethany Youkers  
James R. Kristophel  
James Kristophel  
James Kristophel  
Betty Bintrim  
Wade W. Levere  
Dorothy Levere  
Family members we've lost  
Bob Barkley  
Carol L. Meyer  
Leona Varley, for her birthday on June 14  
Leona Varley  
Charles & Leona Kirwald  
James & Frances Muders

### **By:**

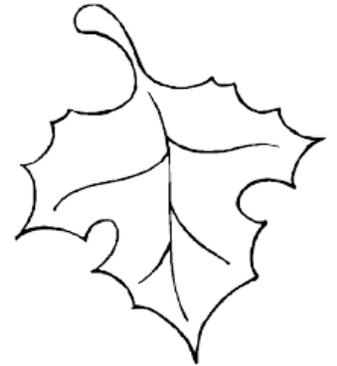
Florence Barkley  
Florence Barkley  
Denny Barkley & Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley  
Cindy & Joe Benoit  
Tom & Edie Brain  
Kathleen Burg  
Barbara Burgh & sons  
Charles Burgh, Jr.  
Charles Burgh, Jr.  
Fay Collins  
Fay Collins  
Marsha Davis  
Marsha Davis  
Oscar Domhoff  
Pastor Susie Esseck  
Donald Grubbs  
Dave Hall  
Donna Hall  
Donna Hall & family  
Eileen W. Hofmeister  
Renee Jackman  
Renee Jackman  
Vi & Ben Jezovnik  
Vi & Ben Jezovnik  
Vi & Ben Jezovnik  
Margaret Kaltenbach  
Margaret Kaltenbach  
Dan & Mary Anne Kristophel  
Mark & Sue Kristophel and family  
The Kristophel family  
Trudy Levere  
Trudy Levere  
Trudy Levere  
Trudy Levere  
Sue Martin  
Thomas J. Meyer  
Debbie Muders  
Jim & Debbie Muders  
Jim & Debbie Muders  
Jim & Debbie Muders



Zion Echoes

Mom & Dad Strohecker  
Our daughter, Elizabeth Suzanne DiNunzio  
Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Barkley; Clair & Bea Warner  
Robert Barkley  
Mary Pascarella & Bernice Porter  
Clarence & Frances Bowden  
Adriane Park  
Wendell Rubright  
Our Parents  
Schaffer Twins  
Fawn Schaffer  
Gloria Stephens  
My dad & mother, Harry & Laura Miller  
Glen & Dolly Underwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Warner and Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Miller  
Anthony & Vivian White  
Samuel & Thelma Flinner  
June Klimack

Kim Muntz  
Eric & Melissa Painter  
John & Pat Pflug  
John & Pat Pflug  
Frank & Joanne Porter  
Gary & Goldie Rader  
Gary & Goldie Rader  
Jeff & Denise Reed  
Van & Pat Rhodes  
Al & Evelyn Stephens  
Al & Evelyn Stephens  
Al & Evelyn Stephens  
Helen Trimble  
Ben Underwood  
Bill & Nancy Warner  
Richard White  
Richard White & Kathleen Burg  
Rosemarie Zebell



**Given in honor of:**

Oscar Domhoff  
The 4 generations of the Burgh Family  
Our Parents  
Ethan, Cael, & Colton  
Florence Barkley  
Our 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Our granddaughter, Elizabeth Violetta DiNunzio

**By:**

Cindy & Joe Benoit and family  
Barbara Burgh  
Ross & Beth Cummings  
Glenda Hartwick  
Sue Martin  
Carl & Betty Miller  
Eric & Melissa Painter

**Given to the Glory of God by:**

Anonymous  
Tom Bickert  
Tom & Sally Davis  
Pam & Chuck Ferrainolo  
Glenda Hartwick  
Eileen Hoffmeister  
Walter J. Klimack  
Cynthia & Cory Latch  
Al & Evelyn Stephens



**Thank you to all who contributed!**



**Minutes of Council Meeting**  
**Thursday December 13, 2018**

Minutes of Council Meeting  
 Thursday December 13, 2018

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

Absent: None

Devotions: Evelyn opened the meeting with devotions reading from John 1:14 and Matthew 1:23. St. John’s Lutheran Church in Mars has implemented experimental programs to engage families. They are telling the story of God by displaying the nativity and showing other Christmas programs.

**Secretary’s Report:** The report was approved by council.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The report was approved by council.

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018:

|   | <b>As of 11/30/18</b> | <b>As of 10/31/18</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Checking                                | \$ 100,540.20         | \$ 108,447.90         |
| Petty Cash                              | 25.00                 | 25.00                 |
| Cash Balance                            | \$ 100,565.20         | \$ 108,472.90         |
| Less: Capital Improvements              | 29,300.57             | 36,375.57             |
| Less: Designated Funds                  | 34,363.20             | 32,076.90             |
| Less: Payroll Tax Withholding           | 345.83                | 171.44                |
| <b>Current Budgeted Funds Available</b> | <b>\$ 36,555.60</b>   | <b>\$ 39,848.99</b>   |
|   |                       |                       |
|   |                       |                       |
|   |                       |                       |

Contributions by envelope and plate for November (4 Sundays) were \$9,686.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$6,543.20 giving was \$3,142.80 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 \$112,466.04 (47 Sundays), and we are \$35,583.44 over budget.

**It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$100,540.20 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 \$36,555.60.**

Our average weekly attendance for November was 52.

Rex Energy – Miscellaneous (Account #980)

Opening Balance was \$4,310.60. November receipts were \$371.30. November disbursements were \$123.77 (Cemetery Association). Ending balance for November was \$4,558.13.

Parsonage Maintenance Loan Balance is \$16,000.00 as of November 30, 2018.

On December 20, 2018 our CD for \$12,913.18 will mature. It currently is invested for two years at a fixed rate of 2.23%.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Christmas gave his report to council for November. He committed 13.5 hours to Zion with 138.8 miles driven. This included home visits and church meetings. The Pastor apologized for being under hours but said this was a good sign as there were no major illnesses or funerals during the month. He again mentioned that if you know anyone who needs a phone call or visit to please let him know.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

CD'S: Shirley told council that a CD for \$12,913.18 was coming due on December 20th. The current interest rates to renew are as follows. 1 year at 1.29%, 2 years at 1.54%, 3-4 years at 2.67% and 6 years at 3.21%. Sally made a motion to renew for 3 years at 2.67%. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Year End Reports: George informed the team leaders that their year-end reports are due by December 20th.

Secretary's Hours: Melissa will resume her original hours as of the first of the year. She will be in the church office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-12.

Lease Agreement with the Food Cupboard: The council reviewed the lease submitted by Sharon of the Food Cupboard. The new lease is for 50 years with the option to renew. The Food Cupboard currently helps the church pay the electric bill. There is a stipulation in the new lease that if there is a dispute about any increases in the electric bill the Food Cupboard will be able to install their own meter. Also, the Food Cupboard will be able to put signing on the building as they see fit in accordance with current regulations. George wants to add a clause that the Rotary Club be assigned 32-64 square feet of storage space since they originally built the space.

Tenant request re: pet: The current parsonage residents have requested to be allowed to have pet. They would like to get a small dog for their children for Christmas. Since they are on a month to month lease it would not require any changes. Debbie made a motion to allow them to have a pet. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed.

Yoke Agreement: George informed council that the executive committees and appointed lay persons from Zion and St. Paul's will meet with Pastor Asplin on Thursday, January 3rd. The yoking agreement needs to be updated with corrections from the Synod so it can be presented to the congregation for approval in January.

Insurance for Church property: George received a huge booklet from Church Mutual showing the current insurance coverage of the church property. The total coverage is \$2,016,600.00 and includes the church, parsonage, garage, cemetery garage and Food Cupboard. Without any changes the premium will increase by \$400.00 annually to total \$3,100.00. This will be due the first of the year and be paid semi-annually. Shirley said her end of the year report to the Synod requires a breakdown of coverage for each area. Currently the parsonage windows and roof and the church roof have been repaired. After the bell tower and window sashes have been repaired and Food Cupboard building completed, Melissa will call the insurance company to have a representative come out to update the insurance policy. As of now, George feels the coverage is adequate.

Dedications: The council will approach Pastor Susie this Sunday to dedicate the church and parsonage roofs.

Upcoming Fellowship Activities: Evelyn told council that the Evans City Chorale concert was very successful and well attended. She has scheduled them to return in 2019 on December 8th and to perform a Spring concert on June 2nd at 7:00 P.M. Fellowship will continue to host graduation, communion, confirmation, Christmas Eve and the church picnic. Dan Schall will return on August 11th for what may be an outdoor service.

Antique Confirmation Certificate: Melissa received a call from a woman who had purchased an item at a flea market in Monroeville. After looking at the certificate inside the frame, the woman realized it was a confirmation document from Zion dated 1885. The woman has donated this historical document to the church and it can be viewed under the Plexiglas with the original red door.

New Members: Four new members will be recognized on Sunday. They are Debra Ridgley, Victor Kotomski and Steven and Michelle Rock. Shirley made a motion to approve the addition of these new members. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Pastor Nathaneil said that as a new member rite the council must inform Melissa to add them to our member list as of December 13, 2018.

**Team Reports:**

Property: Al informed the council that the repairs on roofs of the church and parsonage are complete. He gave an update on the Food Cupboard Building. The contractor still has to complete the insulation, dry wall and lighting. They will install two dusk to dawn lights that will face the parking lot. Al is still painting the Fellowship Hall and mentioned that in the future the carpet should be replaced. Shirley told the council that one member of the Evans City Chorale said that we should be proud of how well we take care of our facilities. He was very impressed with how beautiful our church looked.

Fellowship: Evelyn said that she and Melissa are compiling a list of all the 175th anniversary leaf donations. This Sunday Evelyn will have a cake for the new members and provide a lunch of sloppy joes. The next meeting of the committee will be on January 13th. Oscar will attend to set a date for an oyster stew and vegetable soup dinner. Evelyn has already ordered a birthday cake for baby Jesus. Evelyn said she advertised the Evans City Chorale event on radio station WISR in Butler by sponsoring weather reports. She will look into this again for future events.

Worship: Pat said the committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2nd. No new worship assistants volunteered at the last congregational meeting. Five men helped to put up the Nativity last Saturday. We thank them for their help.

Stewardship: The donation envelopes for 2019 can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall. There is a new special donation envelope in January for the Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch. Sally is preparing a letter to be sent out with the year-end donation reports. They will be mailed sometime in January.

Every Member Involvement: In February, on Super Bowl Sunday, we will be collecting donations for the Food Cupboard. Bill is working with Ross and others on the new website. He said that if anyone wants to request that an upcoming event be displayed on the site to please let him know. He suggests giving a two-week lead time to give them enough time to update the site.

Pastor suggested that each team leader make a list of all events that happen every year. That way every new council member will know when to schedule these events. He also suggested that the leader of Christian Education make a roster of families to assist an incoming council member.

January Money Counters: 6th Bill & George; 13th Shirley & Debbie; 20th Evelyn & Sally; 27th Pat & Linda

Devotions for September: Linda

Next Council Meeting: Council Retreat, January 5th, 9:00 to noon

Next Congregational Meeting: January 27th

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Muders



I would like to thank my church family for the generous Christmas present of a gift card for the Springfield Restaurant Group. I am sure Eric and I will greatly enjoy a meal there! Thank you for thinking of me.

In this issue you will find the Year End Reports, as well as the Usher/Greeter list for 2019. Please note the date you are to serve, and if you cannot serve that Sunday, please trade with someone, or let me know.

Also, church office hours will be changing in January. Office hours will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 until noon.

-- Melissa



## 2018 YEAR END REPORTS

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*Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Harmony, Pennsylvania*

**Staff: Mrs. Rosemarie Zebell, Music Director; Mrs. Vicki Moyer, Sexton; Mrs. Melissa Painter, Secretary/Bookkeeper**

### ***Zion's Church Council for 2018***

|                                |                             |                                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| George Measel, President       | Al Stephens, Property       | Shirley Fichter, Christian Ed. |
| Gasior, VP/Meeting Human Needs | Evelyn Stephens, Fellowship | Linda Armstrong, EMI           |
| Debbie Muders, Secretary       | Pat Pflug, Worship & Music  |                                |

### **Worship Assistants for 2018**

Pam Ferrainolo, Marsha Davis, Tom Bickert, Joanne Porter, Doug Trimble

Zion Lutheran Church Treasurer – Shirley Fichter

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

### ***Church Statistics for 2018***

Baptisms: 0

First Communions: 2 (Robbie Muniz, Oscar Medina)

Confirmations: 0

Weddings: 0

Members' Deaths: Mark Beige; Goldie Rader

New Members Received: 4

Letters of Transfer: 4

2018 Membership Records: Baptized Members 275, Confirmed Members 208

Average Worship Attendance –54

### ***Zion's Church Council for 2019***

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

### ***Worship Assistants for 2019***

Tom Bickert, Marsha Davis, Pam Ferrainolo, Joanne Porter, Doug Trimble

Zion Lutheran Church Treasurer – Shirley Fichter

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Treasurer's Year End Report will be in the February newsletter and available at the January Congregation Meeting.

# TEAM REPORTS

## Executive Committee Report 2018

The Executive Committee has been busy in 2018. We were able to get the New Constitution approved along with New By-Laws. We have attended meetings with St. Paul's and Synod to work on a Parish agreement. We have scheduled joint get together with St. Paul's so we can learn more about each congregation, their ministry and outreach. The call committees of both congregations are working together to get us a new pastor. We hope to continue to work together to strengthen our Lutheran Ministry in Zelenople and Harmony.

In addition to this work Zion has done much to improve our facilities. We have replaced windows in parsonage, and the roof. We have also replaced the roof on the Church nave. The food cupboard is expanding so they will have more room. These are busy and exciting time here at Zion as we look forward to 2019.

--George Measel

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## Stewardship Report 2018

You may wonder sometimes what happens to the offering we give to the church. It makes a huge difference in the ministry of our congregation, to the SWPA Synod and to the ELCA (national church).

Locally, our offering provides for pastoral leadership and required employees. It gives all that is necessary to have meaningful weekly worship. It helps address the needs of our buildings, utilities and maintenance. It provides for Christian education. It helps us share the Gospel in our community in word and action. It makes fellowship events possible that bring us together as fellow Christian brothers and sisters. It supplies all we need to do our ministry including office supplies like paper, ink, the copy machine, etc.

At the Synod level, our giving towards Mission Support provides counsel and guidance as congregations go through the search for a pastor and to the formation of parishes, as we are doing with St. Paul's in Zelenople. They provide help in times of conflict or crisis. They provide resources in areas of ministry like worship, Christian education, evangelism, social outreach, record keeping through their Resource Center. Our synod supports Camps Lutherlyn and Agape, the Gettysburg Seminary, Thiel College, Lutheran Service Society, Lutheran SeniorLife, Bethesda Children's Home and Glade Run. It supports campus ministry in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh and helps make possible synod mission trips like the ones that helped in Mississippi and New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.

Nationally, a portion of our offering goes on through Mission Support to ELCA to support 240 missionaries serving in 40 countries. It supports the starting of 70 new congregations across the US. It supports the renewal of congregations and contributes to the training of pastors in 8 seminaries. The ELCA supports over 180 college campus ministries. It supports our work with other Lutheran churches as well as other church denominations across the world.

Zion has met its commitment to Synod's Mission Support, something we have strived to do for many years now. It is truly the outreach beyond our own doors.

I have tried to contribute, through the newsletter articles, thoughts and ideas that may inspire or cause one to think about what more they could do to be of help to others. I hope they are being considered and reflected upon.

You will be receiving your year-end giving statement for 2018 for your tax purposes soon. Please, as we hopefully look forward to calling a pastor, consider what you are giving to Zion Lutheran Church. We want to be able to support our new pastor in every way including financially and to continue our ministry locally and throughout the world.

It is surprising how often when you have given faithfully, at whatever percentage you have committed to, it comes back to you multiplied.

We all look forward to an inspiring new year.

-- Sally Measel, Stewardship

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## Property Team Report 2018

We had some major projects we did this year at the parsonage with replacing all the windows. We also had to replace the porch roofs and the house roof with metal roofing. It seemed like a lot was done but it was just big and expensive things that needed done this year at the cost of around \$20, 000.00. We should have most of the big ticket items done at the parsonage.

Submitted by Al Stephens

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**Cemetery Association Report 2018**

2018 Interments

|                  |                 |            |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Mark Kevin Beige | Zion Cemetery   | 04/09/2018 | Burial Boylan   |
| Twila M Bareis   | Zion Cemetery   | 06/21/2018 | Burial Boylan   |
| Jill M Kotomski  | German Cemetery | 06/27/2018 | Burial Zalewski |
| Kim D Kelly      | German Cemetery | 07/20/2018 | Burial Boylan   |

--George Measel, Cemetery Assoc.

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**Every Member Involvement/Meeting Human Needs Report 2018**

John 3:18

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

The success our two committees, Meeting Human Needs and Every Member Involvement, is really driven and is determined by the congregations overwhelming response to serve and volunteer. We had a busy year with these two committees.

Several road clean ups in April, July, and October provided those who volunteered a chance to meet beyond the pews, enjoying fellowship while exercising and beautifying our community.

Two successful canned goods collection with the Bunny Hop at Easter and the Turkey Trot at Thanksgiving, these drives collected food for the local Food Cupboard. These annual drives illustrate and remind us that even small contributions can **collectively** have a large impact into someone's life.

Entering into the Christmas season we continued to serve and proclaim our impact into the lives of those less fortunate. As a congregation we collected 31 boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November; as well as volunteering to ring the donation bell at Bilo for the Salvation Army in December.

Linda and I, as well as our committees, would like to thank all those who have helped and donated time, items, effort and money to these worthy causes. It is important to remember that our congregation as a whole can make such a significant impact... God's work, our hands. God requires action, not perfection. Our mission as a congregation is to be Christ to others--to be present in their suffering and to speak words of hope in Jesus' name. Let's get to work!

Submitted by Bill Gasior (VP & MHN chair) and Linda Armstrong (EMI chair)

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**Worship Team Report 2018**

I have enjoyed working with Pastor Susie, Pastor Christman, Rosemarie, and our 5 worship assistants plan this year's worship services. We all pray that the congregation has enjoyed listening and participating. If you have any suggestions speak to Pam F. or Pat P. or attend a meeting sometime. We usually meet the first Wed. of the month at 8:00 after choir practice. Special thanks to Pastor Susie and our other "supply pastors." Thanks to Rosemarie and our choir for the music week after week. The worship assistants are very dedicated, and we can still accept more if you want to learn. Other musicians played for us in the summer so Rosemarie could have some vacation time. Dan Schall and the Ellwood City Chorale will be returning in 2019.

We also worked with Church Council to raise almost \$1500 for WORLD HUNGER during Lent this year.

We are now suggesting using the prayer cards on the table at the back of the church to avoid confusion and issues with being heard. The team has also worked on revising the list of names for All Saints Sunday. Please be supportive of the worship team as we work through this transition time in hopes of getting a new pastor. -- Submitted by Pat Pflug

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**Christian Education Report 2018**

Robbie Muniz and Oscar Medina received their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

To spread the word about Vacation Bible School we had a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Flyers, wristbands and candy were handed out. The participants were: Marsha, Reilly and Claire Davis, Jessica, Lydia and Ella Wright, Sophia, Dahlia and Robbie Muniz and Shirley Fichter. Despite the heat everyone had a great time.

For Horse Trading Days on July 19<sup>th</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup> volunteers from Zion handed out flyers and bottles of water to promote Vacation Bible School. Even Pastor Susie took flyers and being fearless she went up and down both sides of the street handing them out! The water was donated by English, St. Paul and Zion.

Vacation Bible School was held this year at Zion on July 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>. The theme was Gangway to Galilee. We had a fabulous turnout. Every day we had between 35 to 40 students! This was our highest attendance ever! At our closing program we had approximately 90 people in attendance. Zion provided the hot dogs, buns and drinks. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year a success. This year was the first time that parents could register their children online through our Vacation Bible School website.

The 2018-19 Sunday School year began with Rally Day on September 9<sup>th</sup> with a light luncheon following our worship service. Pam Ferrainolo is the teacher for the children. Vicki Moyer has willingly agreed to substitute for Pam. Tom Davis once again agreed to teach the adult class.

The curriculum for the children is the Sparks Lectionary Series. The series rotates every 3 years and follows the church calendar. Once we purchase all 3 series the only items that will need to be purchased are the leaflets for the children.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Robbie Muniz received his Bible.

--Shirley Fichter

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**WELCA Report 2018**

As 2018 comes to an end we once again report that we have had a very busy year. We provide funeral luncheons, a clothing service, Ash Wednesday luncheon, a Lenten dinner, Easter meal and baskets for VOICE, the Mother-Daughter dinner, and Christmas baskets for our staff and shut-ins. But by far our distribution of our funds every December is one of the most important things we do. This year we donated to the Food Cupboard, the local Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, World Hunger, Global disaster relief, Domestic disaster relief, St. Jude’s Research Children’s Hospital, Good Gifts, Harmony Fire Department, City Rescue Mission in New Castle, Butler City Mission (Grace Youth and Family Foundation) and Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch (RYR). In 2019 we ask that you will continue to support our group as we search for new fundraisers. A very BIG thanks to all who have helped us in any way throughout this year.

To God's glory,

Cindy Latch

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**Fellowship Team Report 2018**

Every month we have a cake to celebrate all the birthdays and anniversaries for the month. We had a Valentine’s Day buffet with some candy games and gave away a Red Lobster gift certificate. We had a chili cook off, 1<sup>st</sup> prize going to Al Stephens and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize going to Debbie Muders. There was also a special Fellowship in April hosted by Chris and Doug Trimble for Helen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and as always, Easter morning breakfast was served. We had a luncheon for Pastor Susie’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination. Mother’s day is celebrated with an ice cream cake and we do a men’s grill out for Father’s day. In June we had snacks to honor our 5 graduates Caleb Cekella, Brody Davis, Beau Mulbauer, Tyler Poole and Matthew Rubright.

We had a special worship service with Dan Schall and his special music, There was an indoor Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and an indoor Labor Day picnic. We had an ice cream social, strawberry short cake Sunday, our church picnic with St. Paul’s, and a buffet to honor our Veterans. One Sunday in December we had the Ellwood City Civic Chorale here with great Christmas music. We had a luncheon for our 4 new members and the last and most important of all, celebrating BABY JESUS’ BIRTHDAY with cake after our early Christmas Eve service.

We also did 3 light evening meals, then car pooled to the Red Barn for an evening at the theater. I’m quite sure I missed some things in my summary but we do have many activities going on after church throughout the year.

--Evelyn Stephens