

Zion Lutheran Church

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Rev. Timothy Dawes, Pastor

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LENT 2021

The liturgical season of Lent is directed toward Baptism. It is a time for preparation for those who are about to receive the Sacrament. It is also a time for all of us to remember our own Baptism and the implications that it has for our lives today. In Baptism, we are claimed as members of the family of God and heirs to the kingdom. Baptism also makes us sisters and brothers with each other. All of this is the work of God, no one deserves this or can ever demand that God grant it to them. It is a free gift that gives us new life and faith through God's mercy, love and forgiveness. During this season we reflect on the wonder of being recipients of such a great gift. We also remember the times and ways that we fail to live into the promises made by our godparents and affirmed by us personally during Confirmation.

During our Baptism parents and Godparents made promises:
to live with us among God's faithful people,
bring us to the word of God and the Holy Supper,
teach us the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in our hands the Holy Scriptures,
nurture us in faith and prayer,
so that we may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the word that God has made, and to work for justice and peace.

The entire community of the Church also promises to nurture each other in the Christian faith as empowered by the God' Spirit and help each other live in the covenant of Baptism and in communion with the church.

We are to be continually re-formed by God's Spirit into the beloved community which reaches out to every one that we meet and treat them as we have been treated by God. We are to treat them with love, mercy and forgiveness. For the times that we fail, we approach God in sorrow and repentance, and seek to be returned to our Baptismal relationship with God and each other.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday Mid week services are available February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24
at 7 PM (7) Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Ellwood City | Facebook

Holy Week

Wednesday, March 31 at 7 PM at Zion - Corporate Confession
Thursday, April 1 7 PM at St. Paul – Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 2 at 7 PM at Zion – Good Friday
Easter Sunday, April 4 9AM at St. Paul & 10:45 at Zion

“The Chosen” is a dramatic presentation of the life of Christ and is available at all times.

The Chosen - Apps on Google Play



Wednesday, March 3 7:00 Worship & Music Team meets
Thursday, March 11 7:00 Council meets

Spring ahead! Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14, so don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night!



Bunny Hop

The Bunny Hop is now underway and will continue through Sunday, March, 28. Please bring in your food items to "vote" for your favorite bunny to benefit the food cupboard.

There will be a list of food cupboard needs posted on the bulletin board.

Sponsors Needed

We are in need of sponsors for the bulletins. The cost is \$15 a week and can be done "In Memory", "In Honor" or "The Glory of God". Forms can be found by the office. Sponsorships help offset the cost of the bulletins and can be used as a tax write off.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Our special offering for March will benefit our local Meals on Wheels program.

Meals on Wheels is a community service organization. Meals are provided for those members of our community who are unable to get out of the house and go to the grocery store or cook for themselves. The largest benefit from the program is that it enables the elderly to maintain their independence as long as possible and also maintain better health because of a nutritionally balanced diet.

Meals on Wheels has been a part of this community for over 45 years. The kitchen is located in the English Lutheran Church on High Street in Zelienople. The organization is run by volunteers with one paid staff member, the cook. Volunteers pack the lunches and deliver them to the clients. Many of the desserts and fruits are donated by area churches. This helps to keep costs to a minimum and therefore the meals are affordable for those who are on a fixed income. The cost to receive meals is \$20.00 per week. That cost includes one hot and one cold meal per day.

Anyone interested in being involved with Meals on Wheels or learning about the program should call Barb Kaufman @ (724) 452-6676.

Serving Zion this month



March 7: Carla Wright
March 14: Chris Trimble
March 21: Vicki Moyer
March 28: Peg Kaltenbach



March 7: Chris Trimble & Marsha Davis
March 14: Pat Pflug & Sally Measel
March 21: Carla Wright & Chris Trimble
March 28: Pat Pflug & Sally Measel
April 4 (Easter) : Bill Gasior & Chris Trimble



March 7: Bill Gasior
March 14: Chris Trimble
March 21: Tom Brain
March 28: Chris Trimble
April 4: Chris Trimble



March 7: Available
March 14: Available
March 21: Available
March 28: Available
April 4 : 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 Megan 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 office hallway for both flowers and bulletins. Ask Megan if you have questions.

Easter Flower Order Form

NAME(S) _____

(As you want it to appear in the bulletin)

I (we) wish to order a Lily, Tulip, Mum, Hyacinth, or Hydrangea for Easter, either In Memory Of, In Honor Of, or To The Glory of God. The cost of Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths and Mums is **\$8.00** each. Hydrangeas are **\$16.00** each. They may be taken home after the 10:45 Easter Service or may be left for one of our shut-ins. Orders must be made on or before Sunday, March 14. You may place this form and your money in the offering, or in the church office. Please specify what type of flower you would like, and how you would like the flowers given:

I wish to give the flowers **IN MEMORY OF** the following:

NAME	TYPE OF FLOWER
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____

I wish to give the flowers **IN HONOR OF** the following:

NAME	TYPE OF FLOWER
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____

I wish to give the flowers **TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

TYPE OF FLOWER	
1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ACCOMPANYING THIS ORDER: \$ _____

_____ I will be picking the flower(s) up after the 10:45 service.
_____ I will not be taking the flower(s); it may be given to a shut-in.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021

Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday, February 11, 2021

In Attendance: Pr. Tim Dawes, Bill Gasior, Chris Trimble, Carla Wright, Tom Davis, Sally Measel, Pat Pflug, Shirley Fichter and Tom Bickert.

The meeting was opened with Prayer by Pastor Tim.

January's Secretary's Report – Motion to accept was made by Pastor and seconded by Chris.

Treasurer's Report: TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021

	1/31/2021	12/31/2020
Checking	\$ 112,380.12	\$ 109,656.34
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 112,405.12	\$ 109,681.34
Less: Capital Improvements	24,599.99	24,599.99
Less: Designated Funds	28,950.77	28,075.06
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	106.03	764.48
Current Budgeted Funds Available	\$ 58,748.33	\$ 56,241.81

Contributions by envelope and plate for January (5 Sundays) were \$9,679.62. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$12,930.75 giving was \$3,251.13 less than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts did not exceed our budgeted amount on any Sunday last month. Envelope giving to date in 2021 totals \$9,679.62 (5 Sundays) and we are \$3,251.13 under budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$112,380.12 most of that money is in designated accounts and can only be used for that specific account. The amount we actually have to pay our bills is \$58,748.33.

Our average weekly attendance for January was 25.

PennEnergy (Formerly Rex Energy) – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$4,246.99. January receipts were \$120.16. January disbursements were \$66.73 (Cemetery Association) which was for December and January. Ending balance for January was \$4,300.42.

Reminder: If you are unable to attend church due to COVID-19, please continue mailing your offering to the church.

The budgeted amount for organist supply for the year has been spent but will be covered by Rosemarie's salary. She is collecting workman's compensation since she fell at the church. The employee gift cards given in December will be paid for from the Penn Energy line item 980. Shirley is continuing to work with Tom Bickert. Tom's goal is to find a software program that will meet Zion's needs and simplify the work of the treasurer. Shirley has contacted Synod requesting systems that other churches use. Tom will buy a hard drive to store our records on instead of the thumb drive that could easily be lost. Shirley will complete Synod's year end reports.

Pastor's Report: Worship

- Led and Preached Festival Worship throughout January
- Led & Preached New Year's Eve Bicentennial kick off at St. Paul
- Hospital Visit (0), Communion (0), Memorial Service
Anointing (2) Baptisms (0) New Members (0) Worship Committee

Outreach

- Attended Zion & St. Paul Council Meetings
- Participated in Pericope Study at Berkley Hills (3)
- Participated in Harmony Zelenople Ministerium
- Participated in Bp. Kusserow Ministerium Monday Meetings (Virtually)
- Participated in Zelenople area Lutheran Pastors gathering @ St. Paul
- Phone call check-ins with members (53)
- Pastoral Counseling sessions (2)
- Connected with Ralph Lowe to preach on Transfiguration Sunday
- Participated in Synod Ministry committee
- Participated in Camp Agape Board meeting
- Met W/ Camp Agape HR Committee

Education

Book study with Synod on “I do not agree with you, but I’m listening.”

Possibilities

Study ELCA Social Statement on church role in politics.

Pastor noted that St. Paul’s continuing Bicentennial Blitz will feature Pastor Bill Brewer’s organ recital on Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 PM. Pastor and JoAnn will be closing on their new house in Cranberry on Feb. 16, 2021.

Old Business:

1. Zion’s Tractor – Tom Davis motioned and Sally seconded that we give Pastor the tractor for use at his new home/property.
2. The refrigerator at the parsonage has now been replaced with a new one and as soon as the driveway is free of ice, the one Zion loaned will be returned to our kitchen.
3. President Bill had asked Council’s Hopes and Dreams for 2021. First is just to keep open although we will continue to revisit Covid19 restrictions.

Carla suggested we honor our first responders in some way, perhaps with gift baskets or providing a dinner for the local firemen and/or EMS workers at some point. Carla also suggested we establish Prayer Partners, perhaps with our shut-ins. If you would like to have a prayer partner, please call the church office to be put on an “interested” list. Tom Davis feels we should advertise in the Butler Eagle as we had done in prior years. It had gotten cost prohibitive. We could possibly be added to St. Paul’s information that is printed and share the cost. Bill’s goal for 2021 is to polish Zion’s website as it seems to be viewed a lot.

4. Patty Cekella attended tonight’s meeting at Bill’s invitation. She suggested the start of a youth group for social and volunteer activities. They could meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons, alternating between fun activities and service projects. Bill, Stella and Patty had discussed calling this group “SHARE THE FAITH”. It would be open to any adults who also wanted to participate but would-be youth driven. St. Paul’s youth and adults could be invited to attend as well. Patty expressed a real need to encourage positive relationships, especially with the circumstances we all face under COVID-19. She sees many young people who are really struggling. Carla motioned and Pat seconded that we start on Sunday, April 18th 1 to 3 pm and follow with 2 times in May. Patty agreed to gather a start-up committee to brainstorm ideas for activities. The idea for the first meeting is to show a Christian movie and serve popcorn in our social hall. Some outdoor events could be planned. Pastor suggested obtaining some patio furniture to be set up on our sidewalk between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. He likes that area and thinks it could be used for a variety of purposes. The topic of clearances to work with youth was addressed. Patty has hers, being a teacher, and volunteers can obtain theirs at no cost.

New Business:

1. Election of Officers and Team assignments had not been previously addressed as there was no Council retreat in January. Tom Davis motioned and Pat seconded that we keep our officers as President – Bill Gasior, V. Pres. – Chris Trimble, Secretary – Sally Measel and Treasurer – Tom Bickert.

2. Team Leaders are as follows:
 - Property – Tom Davis with Frank Porter
 - Fellowship – Marsha Davis
 - Meeting Human Needs/Every Member Involvement – Bill Gasior
 - Worship – Pat Pflug
 - Christian Education – Carla Wright
 - Stewardship – Chris Trimble
3. Palms for Palm Sunday – Chris has found them to be unavailable but will continue looking.
4. New church secretary - The executive board interviewed two candidates and unanimously agreed to hire Megan Houk. She is the daughter of Jaleen Anderson, St. Paul's Treasurer. Megan is most qualified for our position as she was the director of a church child care program and is familiar with the computer skills needed to do the work of our secretary. Bill will announce in church that the position has been filled. We will invite her to attend a service so everyone can meet her. Melissa has been thinking about retiring for a while and wants to be free to spend more time with her family. Melissa started working with Megan on February 9th. The secretary's days and hours will stay the same as Melissa's, at least for the time being.

TEAM REPORTS:

Property: Snow has been an issue. Chris said it was going to be a mild winter but apparently she did not listen to the ground hog. It snows every Saturday and Sunday. We have needed Andy's Snow Removal Service on three occasions.

Don said he would move the rocks back into the parking lot in the spring when he can bring his tractor down Route 19. The entrance way to the parking lot has some holes to fill. We installed light bulbs in the downstairs storage closet. We should decide with Vicki what can be thrown out. There is some paint that looks like it has been there since the Germans and the English built the Church. - Submitted by Frank Porter

Tom Davis reminded Council that any member who owns a Thrivent policy has until March 31st to designate where they want their Thrivent Dollars applied to, such as to the church. Tom also asked how many people are viewing our videotaped services. Bill responded that we can only determine how many times our website has been viewed, but log-ins are NOT specific to just the services.

Pat and Edie cleaned out the banners closet. We have some that could be donated. It was suggested we could use two workdays, one for inside the church and one outside.

Worship: February Worship Team Meeting

Our worship assistants met with Pastor Dawes on February 3. The Pastor opened with prayers for our group and concerns for our organist Rosemarie and JoAnn Dawes who is going to have heart surgery. We are all grateful to have Pastor Brewer as our substitute organist during Rosemarie's absence. Nancy Williamson, the organist at St. Paul's will be with us for 2 Sundays in February. Pam will tell Pastor Brewer that those vocalists doing special music are far enough away from the congregation that they do not need masks when they sing. We also briefly discussed ways to improve the recordings on our website. Chris T. will be asked to contact Ross Cummings about the technology.

We continued to plan for Lent and Holy Week. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 12:00 noon on Feb 17. St. Paul's service will be at 7:00 p.m. Setting 3 in the Cranberry hymnal will be used beginning Feb. 21, with no Hymn of praise and no Alleluia. We use the "Return to the Lord you God" response for the Gospel acclamation. Easter is April 4 and we begin using Setting 10 that day. Pastor Tim will list the directions for using Trinity Lutheran in Ellwood's web site as they will post the Holden Prayer Service on Wednesdays during Lent. For Holy Week Pastor Tim will be having a service of Corporate Confession and Forgiveness, a Maundy Thursday service and a Good Friday service. These services will likely be taped at Zion. See details below. Worship assistants were assigned for the rest of February, Ash Wednesday, and March. March 28 is Palm Sunday and we hope to be able to order palms this year.

Marsh Davis hopes to invite Dan Shaw to do an outdoor service this summer if the Covid virus is more under control. The next regular meeting of the Worship Team will be March 3 at 7:00 p.m. See any member of the Worship Team if you have concerns or suggestions. - Submitted by Pat Pflug

Following are the services, places and times scheduled for Lent:

Ash Wednesday, February, 17th: There will be a service at Zion at noon (no lunch this year) and a 7:00 pm service at St. Paul's. Pastor may offer drive by ashes weather permitting. Two members from Zion purchased 40 day devotional booklets that can be distributed one per family in each congregation.

As it was decided NOT to have mid-week Lenten services, 2 resources are available for use. First is Trinity LC in Ellwood City will hold Evening Prayer - Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM which can be found on Facebook. Secondly, the first season of The Chosen, 8 episodes, is a dramatic presentation of the Life of Christ. It is an app that can be found by searching The Chosen and downloaded for free for viewing.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, March 28th: 2 services, one at St. Paul's and one at Zion, normal times.

Wednesday, March 31st – Corporate Confession and Forgiveness - at Zion, 7:00 PM.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st - at St. Paul's, 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 2nd – Seven Last Words utilizing all worship assistants - at Zion, 7:00 PM.

Easter: 2 services, one at St. Paul's and one at Zion, normal times.

Stewardship: Chris announced that the yearly audit needs to be completed.

Deadline for March's Newsletter is Tuesday, February 16th.

Next Council meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00 PM.

Devotions for next meeting: Marsha Davis

Money Counters are as follows:

February 28 – Carla and Tom D.

March 7 – Chris and Marsha

March 14 – Pat and Sally

March 21 – Carla and Chris

March 28 – Pat and Sally

April 4 (Easter) – Bill and Chris

Motion to Adjourn was made by Carla and seconded by Pat. Pastor closed the meeting by leading us in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Measel, Council Secretary