

Zion Lutheran Church  
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## *From the Desk of the Pastor ...*

At the August Churchwide Assembly it was voted on to declare ELCA as a SANCTUARY denomination. This is not a new stance for the Body of Christ. It continued the orientation for the People of God. There is a constant orientation in favor of the lowly and despised, the poor and powerless. It might seem that this is only about our current political situation, but it is about who we are and how we treat others.

This country has not always treated its people as equals. Women had to protest for a long time in order to be given the right to vote. People were captured beginning in 1619 in Africa and brought to these shores to be sold as lifelong slaves and their children and their children's children were denied their humanity.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Declaration of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

**Discrimination** has been defined as the selection for unfavorable treatment of an individual or individuals on the basis of: gender, race, color or ethnic or national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social class, age, or as a result of any conditions or requirements that do not accord with the principles of fairness.

19<sup>th</sup> Century saw the potato famine in Ireland and a wave of immigration of poor, starving and disease ridden. They were also predominantly Catholic. They met with scorn and rejection. The Sign NINA appeared in stores and factories (No Irish Need Apply)

Also, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was thought that the wave of economic and social immigrants from Germany were said to be unable to assimilate, they were mainly poor, rural and did not speak English. During the Great War (WW I) the teaching of German and any signs of their home culture were seen as loyalty to the Kaiser. It did not improve during WW II where they were suspected of sabotage and anti-German hysteria were rampant.

In 1873 a San Francisco Chronicle headline read: "THE CHINESE INVASION! They are coming 900,000 strong." They were seen as a foreign army who would never be able to be assimilated into the larger society.

1880 began a large-scale immigration of Southern Italians and Sicilians and Congress restricted immigration from southern and eastern Europe but not from northern Europe. During WW II they and their descendants were viewed with suspicion as having divided loyalties.

Beginning in the 1880's fleeing violence and ethnic tensions in their homeland, two million Jewish Russians fled to America. There were faced with anti-Semitism which continues to this day in some circles.

Not new immigrants but still facing discrimination LGBTQIA people have been forced to hide in fear of loss of their jobs, housing or lives. Their struggle for recognition of their having been created in the image and likeness of God.

The Love of God invades US political universe. How can each of us enter the national discussions and remind ourselves and others that ALL people are created in God's image and likeness and need to be treated as brothers and sisters?

--Pastor Tim

## Serving Zion in September



### Ushers

September 1: John Pflug  
September 8: Dave Kennedy  
September 15: Donna Hall  
September 22: Michelle Rock  
September 29: Beth Cummings

### Greeters



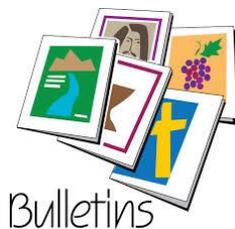
September 1: Ryan & Lisa Shedio  
September 8: Eric & Melissa Painter  
September 15: Trudy Levere & Pam Bintrim  
September 22: Frank & Joanne Porter  
September 29: Peg Kaltenbach & Doris Miller

### Money Counters



September 1: Bill Gasior & George Measel  
September 8: Sally Measel & Evelyn Stephens  
September 15: Debbie Muders & Shirley Fichter  
September 22: Linda Armstrong & Pat Pflug  
September 29: Al Stephens & Bill Gasior

### Bulletin Sponsors



September 1: Painter  
September 8: Muders  
September 15: Stephens  
September 22: **Available**  
September 29: **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.



Wednesday, Sept. 4—Worship & Music team meets at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12—Council meets at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 18—WELCA meets at 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, September 1st, the Fellowship Team will provide an indoor Labor Day picnic with all your favorite picnic foods. A freewill offering will be taken. Please join us!



## Make a Joyful Noise!

Choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The choir is always happy to have new members.... all teens and adults are invited to join! Come and help us make a "joyful noise"!

September 8<sup>th</sup> marks the day when Sunday School classes resume at Zion. Classes begin at 9:15, and we have something for everyone. From kids age 3, to kids age 103, there is a class for you! Following Sunday School and Worship, we'll gather for a lunch of meatball hoagies and chips.



Sunday Morning  
Adult Study

We will continue in our study of Acts beginning on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Won't you consider joining us?

Mark your calendars! Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Tim will be officially installed as the pastor of Zelienople-Harmony Lutheran Ministries. The service will take place at 3:00 p.m. at Zion. This will be a joint service with St. Paul Lutheran Church. *There will be no Sunday school this day, and no morning service.*







**Minutes of Council Meeting on August 8, 2019**

\*Minutes of this meeting are subject to Council approval. \*

**Attendees:** Linda Armstrong, Shirley Fichter, George Measel, Sally Measel, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Al Stephens, Evelyn Stephens, Pastor Timothy Dawes

**Absent:** Bill Gasior

**Devotions:** Evelyn opened the meeting with a reading from Isaiah 58:10. Jesus makes it clear that we need to feed the hungry, especially around the holidays. To raise funds Oak Grove Lutheran church in Sewickley Township organized a 5K Walk and Run. This Fall event has grown and is sponsored by numerous churches and participants to benefit local Food Banks and Food Cupboards.

**Secretary’s Report:** There were no additions or corrections to the report. Evelyn made a motion to accept the report. Al seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Shirley explained that we are overbudget in line item 400, office supplies, due to the purchase of a new computer for the church office. Ross has upgraded the new computer and Melissa and Shirley are impressed by its speed. Shirley said the new budget will include line items under Pastoral Expenses itemizing the Pastor’s expenses so the congregational will understand how Zion is spending its funds. Shirley thought our attendance for the last two months has dropped and we should keep an eye on it. But George said this is normal in the summer. Rosemarie has requested that line item 180, Instrument Maintenance, be increased to \$400.00 due to annual maintenance on both the piano and organ. Shirley was very happy to announce that the parsonage loan has been paid off and Zion has no outstanding loans. The executive committee will meet on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, to work on the budget for 2020.

**TREASURER’S REPORT FOR JUNE 2019:**

	<b>6/30/2019</b>	<b>5/31/2019</b>
Checking	\$ 108,523.72	\$ 105,441.95
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 108,548.72	\$ 105,466.95
Less: Capital Improvements	25,200.57	25,200.57
Less: Designated Funds	35,862.67	33,821.67
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	(2.53)	447.61
<b>Current Budgeted Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 47,488.01</b>	<b>\$ 45,997.10</b>

Contributions by envelope and plate for June (5 Sundays) were \$10,945.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$8,750.40 giving was \$2,194.60 more than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts exceeded our budgeted amount on three Sundays last month. Envelope giving to date in 2019 totals \$65,019.59 (26 Sundays) and we are \$19,517.51 over budget.

**It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$108,523.72 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 \$47,488.01.**

Our average weekly attendance for June was 53.

PennEnergy (Formerly Rex Energy) – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$3,690.59. June receipts were \$215.67. June disbursements were \$80.20 (Cemetery Association for May), \$71.89 (Cemetery Association for June and \$50.00 (Lutheran Church Extension Society). Ending balance for June was \$3,704.17.

Parsonage Maintenance Loan Balance is \$2,000.00 as of June 30, 2019.

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2019:**

	<b>7/31/2019</b>	<b>6/30/2019</b>
Checking	\$ 103,482.22	\$ 108,523.72
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 103,507.22	\$ 108,548.72
Less: Capital Improvements	25,225.57	25,200.57
Less: Designated Funds	36,095.57	35,862.67
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	342.77	(2.53)
<b>Current Budgeted Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 41,843.31</b>	<b>\$ 47,488.01</b>

Contributions by envelope and plate for July (4 Sundays) were \$8,340.35. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$7,000.32 giving was \$1,340.03 more than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts exceeded our budgeted amount on two Sundays last month. Envelope giving to date in 2019 totals \$73,359.94 (30 Sundays) and we are \$20,857.54 over budget.

**It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$103,482.22 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 \$41,843.31.**

Our average weekly attendance for July was 45.

PennEnergy (Formerly Rex Energy) – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$3,704.17. July receipts were \$171.79. Ending balance for July was \$3,875.96.

The Parsonage Maintenance Loan was PAID IN FULL in July.

**Pastor's Report:** In June, the Pastor's mileage for the joint Zelenople Harmony Lutheran ministries was 374.1 miles this included home and hospital visits and church meetings. The mileage for July was 589.8 and included home and hospital visits, VBS, 4th of July and Horse Trading Days, Food Cupboard and church meetings. Pastor Dawes told the council that he attends a weekly meeting of pastors at Berkley Hills in Ross Park for Bible study and a meeting of local pastors at Passavant the first Tuesday of every month. The Pastor expressed some ideas going forward with the joint ministry. During Lent, he would be available for individual confession if anyone is interested. He would like to have a joint worship in a month with a fifth Sunday. He feels this would help the congregations to get to know each other better. The Pastor will bring this idea up at St. Paul's next council meeting to determine their interest in this. The worship services would happen about once a quarter and would rotate between St. Paul and Zion. Also, the Pastor suggested changing our Sunday service time from 10:30m to 10:45. This would give him more time to travel from St Paul's after their morning service, especially during the winter when the weather is bad. The Pastor wanted to know if Zion had any Advent or Christmas traditions that he should know about. He was asked about the progress of Lydia's confirmation. She will continue with her education and should be ready next year after Easter. Her confirmation will then be presented to the council for approval. Pastor suggested that he would do part of the liturgy on her confirmation Sunday and Lydia would do part.

**Old Business:**

**Installation of Pastor Dawes** – The installation will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at Zion for both congregations. There will be no morning services at either church as this will be the service for that day. Pastor Hough, the Dean of this area's Cluster, will preside over this important service. Please mark this on your calendar and support our new Pastor on his special day. There will be a fellowship of cake and coffee after the service to celebrate the event.

**New Business:**

**Church Directory:** It's time to prepare a new church directory. This time we will combine Zion and St. Paul into the same book, with each church being presented separately. The dimension will be smaller, about 5 by 7. We discussed whether the members could keep their existing picture. The team leaders of Every Member Involvement and Meeting Human Needs will be in charge of this plan.

**Food Cupboard Lease:** George was asked to sign the Food Cupboard lease. This lease was written by an attorney representing the Food Cupboard and is a formal agreement for the next 50 years. George wants to take the lease to an attorney to make sure Zion's interests are protected. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting after our attorney reviews the lease.

**Budget:** As stated before, the executive committee will meet after Sunday service on August 18<sup>th</sup> to prepare the 2020 budget. It will be presented to the full council at the September meeting for discussion. Any additions or corrections will be made then so the budget can be presented to the congregation at the November meeting for discussion and approval.

**Worker's Compensation Insurance:** Melissa has received a quote for workman's comp from Traveler's

Insurance Co. for Zion's three employees. Currently, we are paying the State \$1,036.00 annually. Traveler's quote is \$313.00 annually for quite a savings. Sally made a motion to change insurance. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed.

**Team Reports:**

**Property:** Al gave the council a bid of \$3,500.00 by CGW Contracting to remove the sand and fill in the volleyball court with 10 loads of dirt. This will eliminate the possibility of causing damage to the sand mound. Shirley made a motion to accept the bid and proceed with the plan. Pat seconded. Motion passed. The company will start by the middle of August. Shirley said the money will be taken out of line item 800, Building Maintenance, to pay for this. Al also told council that we need a new lawn tractor as the current one seems to always be in the shop for repair. He has gotten prices for various tractors and has determined that the John Deere tractor at Lowe's for \$2,100.00 would be the most suitable for Zion's needs. Al will purchase the tractor himself as he will get a military discount at Lowe's thus saving the church money. The funds will be taken from line item 800, Building maintenance, to repay Al. Shirley made a motion to proceed with this purchase. Evelyn seconded. Motion passed. The Fellowship Hall carpet will be cleaned on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The main aisle in the sanctuary will also be cleaned at that time. John Byler will start repairing the steeple next week.

**Fellowship:** August 25<sup>th</sup>: Celebrate the baptism of Amara Rock  
September 1<sup>st</sup>: Indoor Labor Day picnic  
September 8<sup>th</sup>: Rally Day with the traditional meatball hoagies  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday, attend play at Red Barn  
September 15<sup>th</sup>: Celebrate Zion's 177<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Birthdays & Anniversaries will be celebrated  
September 22<sup>th</sup>: Coffee Hour

Evelyn requested that future hall rentals start at 1:00 to give the congregation enough time to exit the church after Sunday service. Shirley made a motion to accept the new time. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

**Every Member Involvement:** Linda told council that she is having a difficult time finding people to help with road clean-up. The State will not allow anyone under the age of 18 to participate. Linda explained that our stretch of the road only takes about an hour on a Saturday morning to clean. If you would like to help, please see Linda or sign up on the bulletin board sheet. Due to the recent shooting fatalities and violence in our country, Linda brought up the idea of locking the doors during Sunday service and when Melissa is alone in the office. No decision was made by council. If anyone in the congregation has an opinion about this issue, please see the Pastor or member of council to express your feelings.

**Meeting Human Needs:** No report

**Worship:** Worship Team met on August 7 with Pastor Tim and Rosemarie. Rosemarie shared her plans for music with us for the next couple of months. She hopes to help the congregation learn some new hymns from the With One Voice Hymnal. Most of the hymns we know from the WOV Hymnal are now included in the Cranberry Hymnal. Emily Painter will play for us on August 25, and the Baptism of Amara Rock is scheduled. We will be singing one of the National Hymns for the Labor Day weekend. Regular choir practice will begin in September and the choir is always looking for new members. Rosemarie hopes to organize chime choir to play on Nov. 10, with rehearsals after church through October. Hopefully this will be a less busy time for chime choir volunteers.

There was some discussion as to whether the church doors should be locked during our Sunday services or during Melissa's office hours because of the increased violence in our world. Pastor Tim is not in favor of this. Surveillance cameras were also mentioned. The Installation of Pastor Tim is scheduled for September 29, at 3:00, here at Zion. There will be no morning services at either Zion or St. Paul's that Sunday, to encourage more people to attend the installation. Hopefully we will have a joint choir from the two churches sing at the installation. Pastor Tim hopes to have approval to change the time of Zion's service to 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings beginning in Advent. He would also like to have alternating services with St. Paul's when there are five Sundays in the month. This happens four times a year and it would be an opportunity to have the two congregations worship together.

Worship assistants were assigned for the rest of August and the first Sunday in September. The next meeting of the Worship Team will be September 4 at 8:00 p.m. If you have any concerns or suggestions please speak to Pat Pflug. Special thanks to everyone who made our outdoor worship service possible on July 28.

**Christian Education:** Shirley said we had a great turnout for VBS. They averaged between 43-45 children per day. Kids and parents enjoyed the evening program with its fantastic music and everyone, young and old, loved the petting zoo provided by Ross and Beth Cummings. VBS was a huge success this year. Al wondered about what to do with the cardboard cut-out decorations now stored in the basement. We will find out if Synod wants them returned.

**Executive Committee:** Budget meeting, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**September Money Counters:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Bill & Al; 8<sup>th</sup> - Shirley & Debbie; 15<sup>th</sup> - Linda & Pat; 22<sup>nd</sup> - Evelyn & George; 29<sup>th</sup> - Sally & Debbie.

**Devotions for September:** Linda

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Muders

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."