

Zion Lutheran Church
557 Perry Highway
Harmony, PA 16037
Church phone: 724-452-8886
zion557@zoominternet.net
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Pastor Erin Evans
cell 412-580-7773
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Office Hours
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.-Noon
Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-Noon
Friday 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

A Note from Your Pastor

Fall is my very favorite season. I love new school supplies, sweaters, marching bands, and bonfires. I also love a good routine. Summer is lovely and carefree, but now I'm looking for a schedule. Color-coded blocks and fresh paper planners! Classes and projects and goals!

Both of our churches have been easing into a new routine with a new pastor and finding our groove! I've been with you for a few months now, and we're building relationships and trust. Zion has a new and exciting rental partner using classrooms several days a week for a homeschool co-op group. St. Paul is working on a designation as a historical landmark. Megan and I have been working hard in the offices, streamlining processes for administration and our work together, and spreading our social media presence and our advertising.

Classes are starting and events are being planned! We are so blessed! We have "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, Bible study, Zelienople Fall Festival, Blessing of the Animals, CWS Depot Days at St Paul in the next two months alone. We are doing all that on top of regular worship and monthly joint worship, with excellent music and liturgy, and ways for everyone to participate, and a few special Sunday events! How will you contribute? What will your involvement be? Will you attend? Will you financially support these events with your offerings?

I want to invite each of you to consider how you will be involved in the life of your church in September and October. Make a plan, put it in writing in your calendar. Reach out and ask how you can help. Add a church event to your schedule.

Show up and see what's happening. Make it your goal to recommit to your membership promises. In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers..." James 1:22

With you in Christ,
Pastor Erin



September 9 – Peg Kaltenbach
 September 16 – Alice Rubright
 September 21 – Tom Davis



September 2 – John & Chris Burgh
 September 8 – Jim & Debbie Muders



September 3 – Worship 6 p.m.
 September 12 – Council 6 p.m.



September 1 – Combined service at St. Paul 10 a.m.
 September 8 – Evelyn Stephens
 September 15 – Loree White
 September 22 – Eddie Brain
 September 29-- Frank Porter



September 1--Tom Bickert combined at St. Paul
 September 8 – Doug Trimble
 September 15—Joanne Porter
 September 22 – Pam Ferrainolo
 September 29 – Marsha Davis



September 1 – Combined at St. Paul at 10 a.m.
 September 8 – Carla Wright & Sally Measel
 September 15 – Chris & Doug Trimble
 September 22 – Bill Gasior & Sthela Holly
 September 29 -- Bill Gasior & Sthela Holly



September 1 – Combined at St. Paul at 10 a.m.
 September 8 – Bill Gasior
 September 15 – Chris Trimble
 September 22 – Chris Trimble
 September 29 – Bill Gasior



September 1 – Combined at St. Paul at 10 a.m.
 September 8 –
 September 15 –
 September 22 –
 September 29 --

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday:

On September 8, we will gather after church at Zion for a meal, fellowship, and packing school and hygiene bags. This will not take long if we have many hands. There will be at least 100 bags, so please plan to be there to help with this special project. All donations for this project should be at Zion by September 1 so everything can be sorted. Please leave donations in the office so they don’t get mixed up with Food Cupboard items. The following items are needed:

Hygiene kits

- Hand towels - 15” x 28” to 16” x 32” no microfiber towels
- Band-Aids

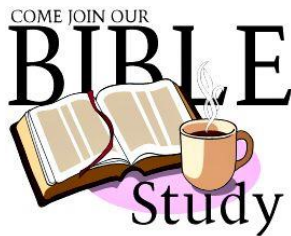
School kits

- 12” ruler
- Hand held pencil sharpener
- Gallon storage bags



Church picnic

It was wonderful to see how many people came to the church picnic this year. We had set up for 54 and had to set four more seats. It is always a good day when the two churches get together to enjoy a day of fun, food, and fellowship. There was so much wonderful food that everyone said we needed bigger plates. We have wonderful cooks in our churches. Congratulations to Frank Porter, Jeff Miller, and Sthela’s mother who guessed the amounts in the candy jars. Looking forward to next year.



Revelation Bible study for the Fall

Pastor Erin will be teaching a 10-session class on one of her favorites, the book of Revelation, each Wednesday from September 11 through November 13. Class will meet at 11 a.m. at St. Paul and 6:30 p.m. at Zion. Pick which time is best for you! Pastor Erin will have a sign-up sheet with her after church very soon.



Choir

We are forming a one-time choir to sing at the service on September 29 when we will have three pastors from Madagascar join our church service. The song will be easy and the more the merrier. We would like to make a VERY JOYFUL NOISE to welcome our visitors. Please see Marsha or Nancy or Sthela if interested.



First Communion Classes

Classes at noon on , September 15, @ Zion and then Sunday, September, 22 @ St. Paul



Zelienople Fall Festival

The festival will be October 12, 13 from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. ZHLM will have a tent at our front door, just like we did for Horse Trading Days. We'll have a free craft for kids, cold bottles of water, and hot apple cider!

This is a great way to interact with our neighbors, showcase our beautiful church to the public, and have fun doing it! Look for sign-up sheets and ways you can help this month. Because the event will take place on a Saturday and Sunday, we'll have a special invitation to worship with us on October 13 issued to the community. Please anticipate a crowded parking lot, carpool together and plan accordingly.

Blessing Of The Animals



On October 5 Christians around the world celebrate a ritual inspired by St. Francis of Assisi by blessing animals and pets. We remember that human beings are only one of God's many creations, but all, including animals, are blessed by God. As stewards of creation, pet-owners have a special responsibility and relationship to creation. At 10 a.m. bring a pet, or a picture (if your pet doesn't play well with others). We will have a short liturgy, prayers, and a song, and then Pastor Erin will offer an individual blessing for each pet.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided, and we'll be under cover, in case of rain, at Zion's large pavilion.

A Delegation Of Pastors From Madagascar Coming This Fall

After a year of planning under the leadership of Pr. Brandon Johns, and fundraising, one being Sthela's Malagasy dinner, we are happy to share with you that three pastors from Madagascar, one of which is President Modeste, the bishop of our companion synod Tulear, along with an interpreter will be arriving in Chicago on September 24 where they will attend the Conference of Bishops. On September 28 they will arrive in Evans City where they will be hosted by Pastor Johns and his family. On Sunday, September 29, it will be our privilege to host the pastors at both St. Paul and Zion. They will attend both services at the normal times, and we hope they will feel comfortable enough to assist with communion. There will be a fellowship following the service at Zion where we will prepare "Typical American Food." St. Paul will be invited to attend the fellowship. It is a true honor to have been chosen as small-town churches sharing one female pastor for them to attend. While in our area they will visit with Glade Run and Passavant and, if time permits, Lutherlyn. They will be here for our local ministerium. They will then move on to the United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, spend time with West Virginia /Western Maryland synod, visit First Lutheran in Pittsburgh where Pastor Erin's husband is pastor, and spend some time seeing the sights of Pittsburgh, including Heinz Chapel, the Strip District, Mt. Washington, including the Incline, and more. We are looking forward to this event in our synod and will do our very best to make them feel comfortable and welcome in our congregations. Praise God for this blessing.



We are excited to announce that Zion will be partnering with Roots Learning Academy this school year, and hopefully many more to come! Roots Learning Academy (RLA) offers both a hybrid and co-op program that are designed to help homeschool families in their education journey. Our goal is to help students reach their fullest potential and for homeschooling parents to feel supported with their educational needs.

RLA is focused on individual attention to meet the needs of each student, as well as hands-on learning that is established in faith. The programs will meet in the basement and social hall of the church on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 8am - 4pm. Currently, we are offering two hybrid classes, Kindergarten/First grade and a Second/Third grade, with hopes to expand to 6th grade (and possibly beyond) in the future. The co-op classes offered in the afternoon time slots are available for grades PreK-5th. We offer a variety of co-op classes (extracurricular classes such as crafts, games, woodworking, etc) and we base the selection off of student interest and the talents of our parents and community. If you or anyone you know would be interested in teaching an extracurricular class, or volunteering to help with a class, please let us know. We are still accepting students for this school year as well. If you have any questions or know anyone who may be interested in attending or helping, please reach out to Jess Gasior

BUTLER COUNTY FOOD CUPBOARD

Summer food cupboard needs: Goldfish (snack size), oatmeal, pasta, fruit snacks, soups, Ramen noodles cookie mix, hygiene essentials, mac n cheese, cereal bars, pet food, Knorr sides.

Place your donation in the collection box located in the church narthex. Food donations can also be dropped off at Zion Lutheran Church

- Volunteers are needed on the following days:
 - Second Tuesday of the month to stock shelves 9 a.m.– noon
 - Third Monday of the month, 9 a.m.– Unload Food Bank delivery truck
 - Third Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m. – Pack food, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. hand out food.
- If you would like to volunteer, please contact Phyllis Metz at 724- 452-5993.

September 2024 Calendar					
ZION		ST. PAUL		ZHLM	
<i>September 1</i> 10 a.m.	Combined service at St. Paul	<i>September 1</i> 10 a.m.	Combined service at St. Paul	<i>September 1</i> 10 a.m.	Combined service at St. Paul
<i>September 3</i> 6 p.m.	Worship Team				
<i>September 8</i> After service	God's Work. Our Hands				
<i>September 9</i> 9 a.m.-noon	Food Cupboard stocks				
<i>September 11</i> 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	<i>September 11</i> 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>September 12</i> 6 p.m.	Council				
		<i>September 14</i>	Hall in use		
<i>September 15</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at Zion	<i>September 15</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at Zion	<i>September 15</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at Zion
<i>September 16</i> 9 a.m. -?	Food Cupboard truck				
<i>September 17</i> 9 a.m.-? 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Food Cupboard Packing and hand out				
<i>September 18</i> 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	<i>September 18</i> 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>September 21</i>	Hall in use				
<i>September 22</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at St. Paul	<i>September 22</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at St. Paul	<i>September 22</i> 12 p.m.	First Communion class at St. Paul
<i>September 25</i> 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	<i>September 25</i> 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>September 28</i>	Hall in use				

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHUT-INS (Please ask the office for contact information): Gloria Rice, Arlene Cameron, Sally K. Davis, Bill Warner, Chuck Ferrainolo, Pat Givens, Eleanor Dindinger, and Pastor Susie Esseck.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Bill Birkhimer, Nancy Cable, Cory and Cindy Latch, Cole Nasky, Tony Trapuzzano, Rebecca Smith Densmore, Kim Muntz, Debbie Ridgely, Denny Barkley, Alice Short, Jeff Michaels, Sandy Goetze, Barbara Burgh, Shirley Fichter, Don Grubbs, Beau Boozel, Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley, Jetty Kennedy, Oscar Domhoff, Sandy Mullins, and John Komidar.

(If you have a name that should be added or removed from our list, please contact the church office.)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY & RESERVES: Zachory Boozel, Technical Sergeant John Burgh, Jeffrey Hock, Kristen Latch, Josh Miller, Jeff Petty, Ryne Rhodes, Jeffrey Shaffer, Matt Van Arsdale, James Schott, Adam Reichert, Aaron Reichert, Andrew Reichert, Landon Peeples (Air Force), Granger Peeples (Army), Jaydon Peeples (Army).

ST. PAUL'S CONTINUED PRAYER: Nathan Bogacki family, Jason Sarver, Randy Cunningham, Luke Mangola, Cheri Mihalik, Tina Rombach, Roger Lees, Kathy M., Gracie McClelland, Brian Ward, and, Martin Matscherz.



Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday, August 8, 2024, 6 p.m.

In Attendance: Pr. Erin Evans, Tom Bickert, Bill Gasior, Sthela Holly, Sally Measel, Chris Trimble, and Doug Trimble.

Absent: Carla Wright

The meeting was opened with **Devotions and Prayer** by Pastor Erin. Written by Ron Manges from Bethlehem, Glenshaw, it told of the struggle he had with his son's diagnosis of cancer, but with the strength of his wife and the support from his congregation, they got through it successfully. The community of church is always there to share the ups and downs of our earthly journey. May we always be there for each other as Christ is always there for us. "Blessed are those that trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7.

Secretary's Report – Motion to accept was made by Doug and seconded by Sthela.

Treasurer's Report:

Contributions by envelope and plate, as well as rental income, for JUNE (five Sundays) were \$12,245, compared to the budgeted amount of \$11,060. Giving was \$1,185 MORE than needed to meet monthly budget. The average weekly attendance for the five Sundays in JUNE was 46. There were 75 in attendance on June 2 for the combined service at St. Paul.

Contributions by envelope and plate, as well as rental income, for JULY (three Sundays at Zion) totaled \$9,388, compared to our budgeted amount of \$8,848. Giving was \$540 MORE than was needed to meet our monthly budget.

Our average weekly attendance for the three Sunday services at Zion in JULY was 45.

For the year, contributions and rental income total \$76,242, compared to our budgeted amount of \$66,360. Giving and rental income year-to-date is \$9,882 more than budgeted. Our current 4 CD's have approximately \$165,000 in them total.

Tom clarified the situation with our printer which we are now sharing the use of with St. Paul. Chris motioned, Doug seconded, that the following arrangement be presented to ZHLM for final approval: The Great America lease is \$81.08 per month plus \$4.99 a month for insurance charge for total of \$86.07. The cost of using Zion's copier will be split with St. Paul, so each will pay \$43.04 per month. Also, the Print-O-Stat maintenance agreement will be for 3,000 black and white copies and 600 color copies for \$98.03 per month which will also be split with St. Paul, with each paying \$49.02 per month. Motion carried.

Tom also informed Council that the current QuickBooks desktop product can be renewed for \$650 per month, but is being phased out. He recommended that we instead set up an online QuickBooks account. If we do this before October, the cost will be \$161.25 which is a discount price down from the initial cost of \$322.50 for the first year. After the first year, the account will renew at \$645 annually. Sally motioned, Sthela seconded, that we go with the online account going forward. Motion carried. Bill asked Tom to check into a way of backing up our account in case there would be any issues when it is being transferred into the new online account.

ZHLM PASTOR ERIN'S REPORT FOR JULY 1-31

HOME COMMUNIONS/HOMEBOUND: Dave Peeples, Oscar Domhoff, Eleanor Dindinger

HOSPITAL: Debbie Ridgely

Visitation Attempts: 3

Counseling Hours: 2

MEETINGS

St. Paul Council

ZHLM Joint Council

Note: Zion did not have a July Council meeting

Attended: Horse Trading Days, St. Paul's Spaghetti Dinner, Chosen Bible Study, Zelig Pericope

Mileage for July: 154 miles

- Coordinated Baptism with Pastor Peggy
- Coordinated volunteers and supplies for Horse Trading Days
- Planned ahead for time off
- Cleaned out basement rooms, organized usable curriculum, books, crafts.
- Finished meeting 60 people in 60 days!
- Vacation days 1-2
- Continuing Ed Days 29-31
- Continue to work on Admin issues and office needs with Megan

Looking ahead

First communion class scheduling...having trouble getting dates that suit all involved.

Blessing of back packs, Sunday, August 25.

Book of Revelation Bible Study – There will be 10 sessions, 11 a.m. at St. Paul and 7:30p.m. at Zion on Wednesdays starting on September 11.

Blessing of the Pets – Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. @ Zion Pavilion. Can we serve coffee, etc.? I'll buy dog treats, cat treats, advertise, etc.

Dan Schall @ Joint Worship Service on Oct 6 - I will coordinate with him as I would still like to have communion together.

ZHLM tent for Fall Festival at St. Paul Oct 11-13 - more crafts? water? Hot cider?

CWS drop off and pick up at St. Paul Oct 11-16 - will be asking for volunteers to assist.

Old Business:

- Audit Update – Hoping to get completed by end of August.
- Boat Outing Update – Bill will email Carla about status of this event. Hoping to do this outing in September or October.
- Call Committee Update – All information for the MSP (site profile) has been completed and submitted. The call committee will be meeting with Pr. Peter Asplin on August 27 for interview training.

New Business:

- Purchase of Highchairs (Barkley Memorial fund) – Because of the poor shape our current high chairs are in, Council decided to purchase two new high chairs and two clip to the table chairs. We will obtain prices.
- Office Door – Megan suggested cutting her office door in half like the one entering the sanctuary. This was to accommodate people from the Roots school being able to see her but prohibiting people and children going through the offices. This would require double locks and compromises the security of the door to the offices. Doug suggested, instead, to put a sign on the door saying to knock before entering. This would help on Sundays, as well, when the offering is being counted and entered onto the computer.
- Roots Learning Academy Agreement – We discussed further items, including increased insurance (school to pay whatever the increase comes in at), pay for plowing of snow, and teachers clean rooms and be sure everything is in order for Sunday services. Vicky Moyer decided she does not want to take on the added cleaning per week that will be necessary. Fire inspector, Tim Sapienza, advised moving white refrigerator that is blocking access to offices hallway and hanging emergency exit signs.
- Where do we want the profits to go? (\$10,000) – If the Roots Learning Academy does use Zion, Tom suggested the money received monthly be put into the building fund.
- Concrete edging stones around the flower beds – Doug and Chris placed stones around Zion's sign. Doug motioned, Sally seconded, that we place this same type of stones around the edges of the flower beds which look attractive and will contain the mulch better. The person who donated money for the parking lot gravel (which ended up being donated by a company Doug works with) has agreed to using their donation towards these edging stones. Motion passed to continue with this project.
- Annual Operation Christmas Shoeboxes – November 3 is joint service at St. Paul. We could put the shoeboxes together there OR do it the following Sunday at Zion. Bill will talk to Diane Miller to see what they would prefer. We will need help in packing the shoeboxes.
- Bids for AC Unit – The air conditioning units for the sanctuary are 20 years old. The old type of freon is no longer available but there is a new product that could work in them. If we need to start replacing them, it will be a large expense. Hopefully, we will get at least several more years out of them. A window air conditioner was put in the pastor's office. It was decided NOT to move forward with putting more air conditioning units in the social hall at this time as it is going to be a large expense as well.
- AV/Recording Equipment – As there have been ongoing problems with recording Sunday services, Bill has been working on this and estimates the costs for upgrades to be around \$3500. He distributed a bid from Spectrum Audio Productions that includes \$2600 for a zoom camera (one camera should be enough), wall mount, wiring, and installation. He does not think we will need a new computer, but may need a video switcher 2/ USB Streaming for another \$995. This was the lesser of two bids. Bill will continue moving forward to get this installed. It will be paid for from the memorial fund.
- Other:
We would like the chest freezer in the offices hallway to be moved. As Al and Evelyn purchased it initially, Chris asked if they would like it back. They said we could do whatever we want with it.

Chris expressed the importance of getting the newsletter out in a timely fashion and preferably before the end of the month. It was decided Pr. Erin will have the final review of it and the authority to give Megan the go ahead to send it out.

Nancy Williamson, a member of Thrivent, was able to get \$250 towards the September “God’s Work Our Hands” project. Towels were purchased.

TEAM REPORTS:

Property:

6-10-2024 - Cleaned road with Bill, Joanne, Pastor, Pat, and new guy David
6-14-2024 - Chris and Doug pulled trees from the bushes
6-14-2024 - Electrician replaced the capacitor in the air conditioner at the parsonage
6-20-2024 - Picked up trash bags from cleanup
6-21-2024 - Met Armstrong Rep with Chris and Doug for air conditioner estimate
6-27-2024 - Cemented hole by road; Joanne and I trimmed bushes
6-28-2024 - Met AC man with Chris for another estimate
7-3-2024 - Doug got stones for the parking lot and raked them
7-11-2024 - Met Eli from Armstrong to service Air Conditioners
8-2-2024 - Checked plumbing problem in small bathroom off the sanctuary.
Sink doesn't have water. Thanks to Doug and Al for their help.
Submitted by Frank Porter

Added by Chris:

Weeds have been removed that grow inside all the shrubs around the church.
Stone, fabric, and mulch were put around the sign in the front yard.
Old copy machine was taken apart and thrown away. Thanks to Doug for getting this accomplished.

Fellowship: No Report

Note: Thanks to Chris for organizing the church picnic this year and organizing the games as well. We had 74 in church that Sunday. Although not everyone stayed for the picnic, a good time was had by all those who did. Great food, fun, and fellowship!

Human Needs and Services: No Report

Worship:

The Worship Team met on August 6, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the church. In attendance were Pastor Erin Evans, Pam Ferrainolo, Joanne Porter, Marsha Davis, and Doug Trimble. Tom Bickert was excused due to other commitments.

Pastor Erin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Setting 7 will be used until Lent 2025. Setting 3 will be used through Lent, and we'll go back to Setting 7 again at Easter. We will use this rotation from here on out.

Pastor Erin provided a list of hymns for the September services, as well as some minor changes to the liturgy for the period from September 1 to October 27.

The St. Paul worship team recently reached out to us regarding a joint meeting to discuss the upcoming seasons of the church. Tentatively, the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11 at 6 p.m., at Zion. Pastor Erin will confirm this at St. Paul's worship team meeting tomorrow night.

Pastor Erin will be conducting a 10-week Bible study on the book of Revelation, starting September 11 at 6:30 pm, at Zion.

Three visiting pastors from Madagascar plus others will be in attendance at our worship service on September 29 with a lunch following.

Worship assistants for September are as follows:

September 1 Joint Service at St. Paul (10 am); Tom Bickert will be the reader.
September 8 Doug Trimble
September 15 Joanne Porter
September 22 Pam Ferrainolo
September 29 Marsha Davis

Our next joint service will be on September 1 at 10 a.m., at St. Paul.
The next regular Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3 at 6 p.m.
We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Doug Trimble

Christian Education:

Sally continues with Season 4 of The Chosen Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at Zion, 6:30 p.m. This will conclude on August 28.

Pastor Erin will be conducting a 10-week Bible study on the book of Revelation starting Wednesday, September 11 – 11 a.m. at St. Paul and 6:30 p.m. at Zion. This will conclude on Wednesday, November 13.

Stewardship:

The envelopes for 2025 have been ordered. We can still make changes until the end of September.

Many items have been purchased for "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. I am hoping to have meatball hoagies and chips for fellowship after church that day, Sunday, September 8. St Paul has been invited to join us. A member of the Thrivent team is hoping to be here that day. I was very happy to hear from Nancy and Dave Williamson, that they are members of Thrivent. They also received \$250 for our project and purchased many of the more expensive items still needed. I know that we will be packing at least 100 each of the school bags and hygiene bags. I hope that many will stay to help pack. Many hands make short work. All donations need to be at the church by September 1.

I have already started planning the Operation Christmas Shoebox Day. We could talk to St Paul about possibly packing at their church on November 3rd when we have combined service or packing here at Zion on November 10th. That is the latest we can pack as they should be taken to the church in Butler that week.

Executive: ZHLM met on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at Zion. See minutes from this meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next Council meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 6 p.m.

Devotions for next meeting: Sally

Offering Counters/Recorders for September are as follows:

Sept. 1 – at St. Paul – none needed

Sept. 8 – Carla and Sally Bill

Sept. 15 – Chris and Doug Chris

Sept. 22 – Bill and Sthela Chris

Sept. 29 – Bill and Sthela Bill

Motion to Adjourn was made by Doug and seconded by Chris, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Measel, Council Secretary

ZHLM meeting at Zion LC, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 6 p.m.

In attendance: Pastor Erin Evans

From Zion: Bill Gasior, Chris Trimble, Tom Bickert, Sally Measel, Joanne Porter

From St. Paul: Diane Miller, John Alexander, Ja Anderson, Sylvia Brackbill, Linda Flora, David Williamson

Agenda:

- A. Prayers and Scripture: Pr. Erin open this meeting with devotions about how our story is woven into God's story. We need to do a new and hard way. Also, words/prayer from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
- B. Sabbatical and Family Leave Policy Documents: These are recommendations from Synod that need to be in place before calling our next pastor. Diane thinks sabbatical and health leaves need to be two separate documents with some adjustments to salary. John pointed out that some of these items can be negotiated. Others are not negotiable. Pr. Erin, Bill and Diane offered to work on these documents and determine what is and is not negotiable. They would like input from everyone by August 10 and to get comments from both Councils. These final documents will need both Councils' approvals, but not Congregational approvals.
- C. Status/open items for MSP or call committee in general: These are in reference to the main goals for our next pastoral candidate to fulfill. The following will be edited into the "Call" paperwork:

What are the primary goals of your ministry site?

Original:

1. Growing membership by reaching out to new members of the community.
2. Inviting inactive members to become involved in the church.
3. Encouraging youth to return to the church.
4. Encourage all members to be involved in the church.
5. Bring in new ideas to connect the church and the community.

Proposed Revision:

1. Continuously promote a strong relationship between our two congregations through joint worship, fellowship events, Christian education and joint community outreach events.
2. Promote activities that are meaningful and relevant for all age groups and strive to keep people of all ages engaged in the life of the church.

3. Promote a culture of outwardly focused ministry, spreading the love of God throughout the community and doing good deeds through our thoughts, words, and actions.

D. Dissemination of information for combined activities: Communication still needs improvement. Diane said she just recently started getting Zion's newsletter and Sylvia said she has never received it. Everyone on both Councils should be receiving both church's newsletters. Sylvia suggested there be a section in the bulletin each week listing the activities for the week. Pr. Erin and Bill will be working on a blog (Weekly Update) to be put on the websites and emailed weekly. A combination calendar also is to be put in the weekly bulletins going forward. There have been issues in the past when services are joint – which church, date and time, especially for visitors or irregular attendees. Placing signs in the church yards could be a potential solution.

E. Copier Agreement: Zion's current contract includes 1500 black and white and 600 color copies per month. There are two bills associated with this contract. The contract with Print-A-Stat, which includes the copies we print per month, is \$68.47 and the lease and insurance with Great America is \$86.07. Since St. Paul only has a small printer now and Megan is printing the bulletins and newsletters at Zion, the number of copies has doubled. It was decided to proceed forward with the arrangement with St. Paul and have the bills sent to Linda going forward, splitting the costs 50-50. Final costs will need to be determined.

Tom Bickert clarified, at Zion's August Council meeting, the situation with our printer which we are now sharing the use of with St. Paul. Chris motioned, Doug seconded, that the following arrangement be presented to ZHLM for final approval: The Great America lease is \$81.08 per month plus \$4.99 a month for insurance charge for total of \$86.07. The cost of using Zion's copier will be split with St. Paul, so each will pay \$43.04 per month. Also, the Print-O-Stat maintenance agreement will be for 3,000 black and white copies and 600 color copies for \$98.03 per month which will also be split with St. Paul, with each paying \$49.02 per month. Motion carried.

F. Joint Bible study for the fall: Pr. Erin is hoping to provide a Bible study on Revelations, offering it twice a week on probably Wednesdays or Thursdays. One will be at one church at 11 a.m. and the second at the other church (same day) at 7 p.m. This is in the planning stages and further details will come out soon. Ja asked what else we can do together? Zelenople's Fall Festival is Oct. 11, 12, and 13. Plans may be made for activities then.

G. Review the ZHLM Enabling Agreement language: There have been some changes to the ZHLM yoke agreement that Bill will be forwarding to everyone. These changes will need congregational approval by both churches at the upcoming fall congregational meetings.

We closed this meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Measel