

Zion Lutheran Church
557 Perry Highway
Harmony, PA 16037
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Rev. Timothy M. Dawes, Pastor
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From the Desk of the Pastor ...

Spiritual Direction is an invitation to deepen one's personal relationship with the Trinity in such a way that it allows the development of the ability to welcome new understandings of the mystery of God, creation, relationship and ourselves. It is not a way to change or adjust those who accept the relationship. It is a way to assist and support the individual's discovery of their own divinely implanted direction within their heart. This gradual uncovering is what determines how any particular individual image of God is made concrete.

General Spiritual Direction usually takes place in sermons given consistently in congregations which is designed to support and challenge the growth of all members. It is also to be found in Denominational social statements which are **teaching and policy documents**. Social statements provide broad frameworks to help us think about and discuss social issues in the context of faith and life. They help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. The ELCA has produced a series of 13 of these statements thus far. They address, Church in society, abortion caring for creation, the church and criminal justice, the death penalty, economic life, education, genetics, health and health care, human sexuality, peace, race ethnicity and culture, and sexism. A social statement on women and justice is in development.

Group Spiritual Direction often takes place in smaller groups through reading and discussing books on spirituality and their impact on group members daily lives. WELCA and Men in Mission are examples of Group Spiritual Direction. They meet to pray, study and support each other.

Individual Spiritual Direction is a one to one relationship between a selected director and directee. It can be short or long term. Short term is a form of problem solving, a way to seek support and guidance in addressing any particular irksome problem, then the relationship ends as the problem has been addressed. Long term spiritual direction

Anyone seeking to take the first steps in this invitation to journey deeper into themselves to discover the image of God within, must pray about this decision and proceed to ask another spiritually mature person to assist them on their journey of discovery of God's plan for them. If that person accepts the two then begin a journey into the mystery of God's love.

Passavant Memorial has many retired pastors residing there, who might be willing to accept your invitation. There are many other churches in our area, whose pastors might be amenable to the idea and there are several convents and retreat houses where spiritual direction might be explored. I am also agreeable to serve as either short- or long-term spiritual director for anyone interested.

Pastor Tim



Wednesday, Sept. 2—Worship & Music team meets at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10—Council meets at 7:00 p.m.

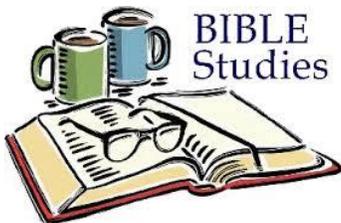
Wednesday, Sept. 16—WELCA meets at 10:00 a.m.



~The family of Mary Lou Kristophel. Mary Lou went home to the Lord on August 1, 2020.

~The Burgh family, on the death of Caryn (daughter of Charles and Carolyn Burgh; niece of Barbara Burgh). Caryn passed away on August 3, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emily Bintrim (daughter of Denny & Pam Bintrim). Emily graduated from Duquesne University School of Pharmacy recently, with a doctoral degree. Great job, Emily!



Pastor Tim will be starting a weekly Bible study soon. The study will focus on the readings for the upcoming week. This study will take place at St. Paul Lutheran church beginning on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. Zion will also have the same study beginning on Thursday, September 17, at 1:00. You may attend at either church; whichever one suits your schedule!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY GOES VIRTUAL!

Due to the Coronavirus, this year's Synod Assembly will be held virtually. We need THREE voting members to take part. The event will be held on Saturday, November 14th. Please see Pastor Tim if you'd like to be part of this event.

Serving Zion in September



Ushers

September 6: Chris Trimble
September 13: Donna Hall
September 20: Michelle Rock
September 27: Beth Cummings

Greeters



September 6: Cindy Latch
September 13: Pam Ferrainolo
September 20: Steven Rock
September 27: Peg Kaltenbach

Money Counters



September 6: Bill Gasior & Linda Armstrong
September 13: TBD
September 20: TBD
September 27: TBD

Bulletin Sponsors



September 6: available
September 13: available
September 20: available
September 27: 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.



Recently, Zion's Sunday School program donated their annual offerings to several different groups. This year, the offering was sent to the following organizations: Camp Lutherlyn, Salvation Army, City Rescue Mission, Harmony Fire District, English Lutheran Church (to assist with their free community meals), and VOICE. Each organization was gifted with \$450.00!

Dear Zion Lutheran Community,
Thank you for your generous continued support to VOICE to help us provide Butler County victims quality Services.
Sincerely,
Millie

Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,
I wanted to thank you for your congregation's generous gift. It means very much to everyone served here at the Mission. You are the reason men, women, and children can walk through the doors for help while feeling broken, and then leave the building as an entirely new person filled with hope.
One man shared, "I am not the same person I used to be. I came here for food and shelter, but needed more help than that. The Recovery Program changed my life and gave me a fresh start. I would never go back to my old ways. I am a new creation!" Thank you for transforming lives and giving hope that comes from knowing Christ to our hurting neighbors through you generous giving!
God bless,
Kevin A. Green, CEO
City Rescue Mission

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your donation of \$450. During this time of the COVID-19 crisis, we are helping more people than before. With your donation, we're able to assist people that need food & other resources. Again, thank you so very much for your help and donation. May God continue to bless you.
Sincerely,
Captain Darlene Means
The Salvation Army



After these many months of quarantine, we have finally been able to pack the bags for Voice. Even now things have been done differently. We found out that the campus in Cranberry Township has been shut down due to not being able to distance from each other. These women and children have been moved into apartments and sometimes hotel rooms. As you can imagine this has put a financial burden on this organization. We were able to pack for 12 women and 12 children. These will be distributed as the advocates visit each of these families. Thank you to all that helped to make it once again a success for those less fortunate than us. Feel free to financially support this organization by either sending a contribution directly to them or sending it to the church so that one check can be cut to help during this stressful time.

--Submitted by Chris Trimble (WELCA)



**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday July 9, 2020**

Attendees: Marsha Davis, Shirley Fichter, Bill Gasior, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Chris Trimble, Pastor Timothy Dawes

Absent: Linda Armstrong

Devotions: Shirley opened the meeting with devotions written by Pastor Allyn Itterly from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Pleasant Hills. Growing up he was a very active member of the church and he eventually became a Lutheran pastor. He was guided by a daily reading of Jeremiah 29: 11-13 whose message is that God values our time, talent and treasure. God has a plan for us and encourages us to try different things. God’s plans for us unfolds in untold ways.

Secretary’s Report: There were no additions or corrections. Chris made a motion to approve the report. Marsha seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: TREASURER’S REPORT FOR JULY 2020:

	7/31/2020	6/30/2020
Checking	\$ 113,621.87	\$ 115,679.14
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00
Cash Balance	\$ 113,646.87	\$ 115,704.14
Less: Capital Improvements	24,324.99	24,324.99
Less: Designated Funds	30,002.59	33,737.11
Less: Payroll Tax Withholding	214.12	679.58
Current Budgeted Funds Available	\$ 59,105.17	\$ 56,962.46

Contributions by envelope and plate for July (4 Sundays) were \$9,727.00. Compared to our budgeted amount of \$10,823.52 giving was \$1,096.52 less than was needed to meet monthly budget. Receipts exceed our budgeted amount on one Sunday last month. Envelope giving to date in 2020 totals \$75,921.55 (30 Sundays) and we are \$5,254.85 under budget.

It is important to understand that although our checking account shows \$113,621.87 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 \$59,105.17.

Our average weekly attendance for July was 25.

PennEnergy (Formerly Rex Energy) – Miscellaneous (Account #980): Opening Balance was \$3,979.18. There were no July receipts. There were no June disbursements. Ending balance for June was \$3,979.18.

Mission Investment Fund: On August 2, 2020 our CD in the amount of \$8,665.51 was automatically renewed for 2 years at a fixed rate of 1.190%. It will mature on August 2, 2022.

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

Shirley explained that line item 580 – Elevator Inspection is overdrawn by \$99.23 due to the recent mandatory Pennsylvania inspection for renewal of our certificate of operation. Our next inspection will occur in 2024.

Council discussed how to dispense the money in line item 965 – Sunday School Offering. It was decided to distribute to local charities as follows: City Rescue Mission in New Castle, Salvation Army in Butler, Lutherlyn, Harmony Fire Department, Voice and English Lutheran Church specifically for free dinners. Each charity will receive a check for \$450.00. Marsha made a motion to approve the distribution of funds. Chris seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor’s Report: Since church has reopened the pastor has traveled 240 miles in performance of his joint ministry. This does include some miles during the closure that he delayed reporting until reopening. The Pastor led worship online through May and June. He attended numerous zoom meetings and 2 church council meetings, participated in Food Cupboard distribution, crafted June and July news articles, one funeral service and two hospital visits.

--Pastor informed Council that there will be a virtual synod meeting on Saturday, November 14th. Each church in the joint ministry will be allowed 3 voting members to participate. It will later be determined which church will host this event. We

are looking for volunteers from the congregation to plan for the future of the church. Be advised that each volunteer will be responsible for their own voting device (smart phone, computer or tablet).

--The Pastor addressed the newspaper article about the Cranberry protests where the Pastor's picture was on the front page. The Pastor attended the rally organized by the Cranberry Association for Racial Diversity at the park and not the rally on Route 228 where the police officer contracted COVID. The Pastor is an individual who can express his first amendment rights. If anyone has a concern, the Pastor asks that you contact him directly. We all must deal with the issue of race.

--The Pastor was asked by Pastor Peggy's daughter if they could use our outside pavilion for their wedding on Sunday in case their venue was closed due to the pandemic. The council agreed that would be fine and they are permitted to take pictures in the sanctuary and use the rest rooms since the church will be cleaned afterwards.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Any Revision to Church Worship Guidelines: Council decided that there would be limited singing at the church services. Only one verse of each hymn will be sung. The majority of the council assumes that since everyone will be wearing masks singing will not be a problem.

Money Counting: Since church has reopened the council members will resume counting the offering after service.

Signage from CDC: Bill will put up signage about the corona virus on the bulletin board and in the rest rooms.

Hopefully, this will help to further inform all of the congregation about the disease and prevention of it.

Procedure and Timeline if Closure Happens Again: The council will address this if or when it comes up. They will then vote on any new procedures and inform the congregation. The Pastor feels we must err on the side of safety. The council will do a better job of keeping the congregation informed of any changes by Calling Post and E-mails.

Food Cupboard Update: The Food Cupboard has a new director. Sharon will remain on the job until the end of July. Chris says we must have the code to open the Food Cupboard door in the Fellowship hall in case of emergency. We plan to invite the new director to the next council meeting. Council wants to know if they provide insurance on their portion of our building. Chris and Doug have changed the church sign and limited the Food Cupboard to 2 lines.

Additional Discussion: Shirley expressed an interest in acquiring a new digital sign for the church. We could put so much more information for the community on the sign. However, the cost would be somewhere between \$2,000.00 - \$5,000.00. That would not be feasible right now so we will revisit that in that future.

Melissa will put out information about a 50-page training manual written by the previous Pastor of Passavant for a lay led outreach to our elderly members.

The current renters of the parsonage will be moving out the end July. Someone from council will do a walk through so we can determine the refund of their security deposit and the return of all keys. Council discussed revising the rental agreement and whether to increase the rent. The Pastor expressed an interest in moving into the parsonage. He and JoAnn will view the inside to see if it will fit their needs.

Team Reports

Property: Chris and Doug have fixed the mulch in the front of the church. Also, Doug moved the dehumidifier downstairs to a different room with a drain. Now we don't have to worry about emptying it constantly. Doug bought Round-up and will spray the parking lot where grass and weeds are growing.

Fellowship: Fellowship has not resumed, and will not as long as COVID numbers continue to go up. But I am going to schedule the Ellwood City Civic Chorale for December with the hope of being able to congregate normally. We have not been able to properly acknowledge Pastor Tim's one-year anniversary with us, but we will when fellowship resumes.

--Submitted by Marsha Davis

Meeting Human Needs: None

Worship: The worship committee had purchased new robes for the choir, worship assistants and Pastor. However, they didn't fit correctly. So, Chris is mailing them back for a \$400.00 refund. Marsha said there is a Christian store in Allison Park where they could try on the robes. The money came from George Measel's memorial fund since Sally approved purchasing the robes. Council discussed asking Sally about purchasing new microphones for the Pastor and worship assistants. We have had so much trouble with adjusting the volume to hear on the recorded services and inside the church that buying new microphones may be a good way to honor George. We will discuss this with Sally.

Christian Education: Shirley will speak to Tom Davis about starting adult Sunday School in September. Pastor will speak to the parents of Lydia and Ella about Sunday School.

Stewardship: Chris said she has eliminated 11 boxes of envelopes. She told council that the mid-year giving statements are done and available for pick-up.

Every Member Involvement: Road clean-up will be scheduled for some time in July. Bill will try not to schedule it on a very hot day.

Executive Committee: None

August Money Counters: 2nd Bill & Linda, 9th Marsha & Chris, 16th Pat & Linda, 23rd Shirley & Debbie, 30th Shirley & Debbie.

Devotions for September: Linda

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 11th

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

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Muders

Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday August 13, 2020

Attendees: Linda Armstrong, Shirley Fichter, Bill Gasior, Debbie Muders, Pat Pflug, Chris Trimble, Pastor Timothy Dawes

Absent: Marsha Davis

Devotions: Before the meeting started Shirley told council that Walt Klimack's daughter asked for prayers for her father and his wife, Wendee. There have been reported cases of Covid-19 at their nursing home. So far one resident and one personal care worker have tested positive for the disease. The Pastor gave a heartfelt prayer for everyone who has been affected by this terrible pandemic.

Secretary's Report: The report will be evaluated for accuracy at the next scheduled meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Chris asked why Shirley paid the Seneca school taxes before the due date. Shirley explained that the money was there to pay the taxes immediately upon receipt so she made the decision to pay now. Chris made a motion to accept the report. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: The Pastor led worship services at St. Paul and Zion. He made 35 phone calls to members of the joint ministry, mostly to people on the prayer list. He attended meetings in person and virtually this month and participated in Food Cupboard distribution. One meeting he attended was with the Harmony Zelenople Ministerium along with numerous local clergy to discuss a response to the sharp divisions in our society. Pastor Dawes has written a 10-wweitem report to be distributed and reviewed by the other pastors. After approval he will present this to both congregations. --Pastor coordinated with Pastor Peggy for details of the memorial service for Mary Lou Kristophel. Pastor Tim set up the Fellowship Hall so the 125 attendees would be socially distanced and the sanctuary held overflow. Pat said that the service was able to be heard from the speakers in the sanctuary and there was a positive response from family and friends about the service.

--Pastor passed around a sign with the word welcome printed in every known language. He would like this sign to be displayed outside the church to say that our church welcomes everyone no matter where they're from or what language they speak. Chris made a motion to put the sign at the church. Linda seconded. Motion passed with one opposed.

--Pastor would like to start Bible study classes in person at each congregation site with social distancing and masks. He would like to have one during the day and one in the evening.

Open Discussion Period: Pastor told council that he is not interested in moving into the parsonage. The steps to the second floor are problematic for his family and he may not be able to economically break his current lease. The new Food Cupboard supervisor recommended to Chris a family interested in renting the parsonage. We have increased the rent to \$1,200.00 and that seems to be in line with their last rental. Chris did a walk-through after the last family moved out and found no major problems. Walls need washed down and some doors need repainted but that is normal wear and tear.

--Frank Porter will be the new liaison for Property, not the permanent replacement. The toilet in the Men's room appears to be leaking as the linoleum is discolored and there is an odor in the room. Frank will call a plumber to determine the problem and repair if necessary.

--The joint outdoor service for St. Paul and Zion will still be held on August 30th. A Calling Post message will be sent to remind the congregation to please bring a chair. If it's very hot that day the service will be held inside.

--The Pastor asked Edie Brain if she would be Zion's liaison for the mutual ministry committee. She has accepted the position and will be the person to consult with any problems or concerns. With her empathy and sincere interest in Zion she is an easy person to talk to with any personal concerns.

--Bill read a statement that he prepared for this meeting. It is as follows: "Zion currently faces several challenges and issues that are not unlike other country churches across America. Declining membership, an aging congregation, and stagnant mindset towards new ideas are just a few of these challenges. It is the role of this council to function as a representative body of the larger congregation and be able to navigate through these issues and challenges, working with the Pastor. Some solutions present themselves and some solutions remain elusive. I have called this meeting so that we may address concerns, issues, and challenges in a constructive manner, in hopes to find solutions. Every concern must be shared if we are to move forward. We need to have real concrete leads if we can resolve an issue. The goal is move forward."

The council and the Pastor then had a discussion about problems and concerns expressed by some of the members of Zion's congregation.

Team Reports: Since this was not the regularly scheduled council meeting there was only one team report.

Worship: Our Worship Assistants met with Pastor Tim and Rosemarie on July 22 at 7:00 p.m. The Pastor opened with prayer and we discussed how our services have been going during the pandemic. We agreed that the Pastor and the worship assistants need to give more direction as to what is next in the service. Attendance has been sporadic and people are not sure of what changes have been made during the COVID-19 virus. We are continuing to use setting 7, but the congregation will speak the parts we are used to singing. Page numbers need to be announced as we start the service and direction given as when to stand up. We will continue to sing only one verse of longer hymns and this will be made clear in the bulletin. We briefly discussed the need for new microphones and the schedule for those who record the service. More helpers are needed with this service. Please talk to Ross Cummings or Chris Trimble if you would like to help.

Rosemarie does not plan to have the choir start until we no longer need to wear masks to our services. We will have no communion on July 26 or August 2 as Pastor Tim cannot to be with us and has arranged for lay leaders to be with us. Worship assistants were assigned for August. The next meeting of the Worship Team will be September 2 at 7:00. Anyone who has suggestions for our services may attend this meeting. Please continue to support our church through these trying times and come join us when you feel safe to attend. Submitted by Pat Pflug

Money Counters: August 30th, Pat & Linda; September 6th, Bill & Linda.

Devotions for September: Linda

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 11th

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Muders

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

It has been determined that the Sunday School program will remain on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are interested in teaching when we are able to meet again for Sunday School, please speak to Shirley Fichter or Tom Davis. We are in need of someone to teach the adult class, as Tom is giving it up after many, many years. Thank you, Tom, for your decades of faithful service!



FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

Jelly, oatmeal packets, spaghetti noodles, canned vegetables, canned tuna, cereal, mac and cheese, broth, rice/pasta sides, canned tomatoes, applesauce, Spaghetti o's