

March 2023

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## Lent has arrived...Let them eat Cheese!

We have begun our Lenten journey and I am reminded of what this church season was like in my house growing up. First, some background. My father grew up in a Swedish Lutheran church and my mother's family were Scottish Presbyterian. Neither family had a strong religious tradition, though they attended church on the major holidays. After she married my father and I came along, my mother sought out a church close by for my baptism. The neighborhood church where they lived, in an upstairs apartment, at the home of my great-grandparents was Episcopalian and the priest there encouraged my mother to continue her own faith journey for the sake of me. As the years went on, I saw a strong faith grow in my mother. It transformed her from bystander to activist in the church. When my brother was born, we moved to the suburbs outside Philadelphia and my mother sought out a church to attend.

Christ Church "Old Swedes" was founded by Swedish Lutherans and erected in 1760. It was part of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania when we began attending. My mother slowly emersed herself in the church's life. She joined the women's group and as we got older, taught Sunday school and learned the history of the small church's stained-glass windows so she could give tours to visitors. When women began to take on more leadership positions, my mother was there, serving on the vestry.

My mother eagerly embraced the church's liturgical calendar and sought ways for us (her victims) to celebrate (suffer through) the seasons out-side the church through personal sacrifice. Of course, Lent was the "big kahuna" for my mother. Fasting fit right into the suffer and sacrifice playbook. My Mother thought that suffering and sacrifice, especially when she could include her family, somehow brought her closer to redemption.

For some unknown reason, we always had a non-meat meal day on Friday. It was sometimes a fish course but there were also other options like mac and cheese, meatless lasagna, vegetable soup, well you get the idea. When we had fish, it often came from the kitchen of "Mrs. Paul's". Fresh fish was hard for my mother because she did not have a car and we lived miles from the grocery store. Mrs. Paul's had a limited menu. Fish sticks and crab cakes were often served on "Fish Fridays".

And when the calendar turned to Lent, my mother really kicked into high gear. During Lent, meatless Wednesday found a home on our dietary regiment. This created challenges for the packed school lunches my mother provided for us during those 40 days. Tuna salad and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were the staple offering, but every so often, cheese sandwiches were discovered buried deep in our lunch bags. These sandwiches contained bread, American cheese and sweet relish. Now individually, I

I don't have a problem with these ingredients, but put together and stored in a hot school locker for several hours, that combination produces a nearly inedible concoction. The relish, added to give the sandwich some flavor, soaks through the bread and the cheese is hot and has lost its natural texture. In short, this found the cafeteria trash can every time.

Cheese sandwiches forced me to begin my Lenten journey by fasting on "Cheese Sandwich" days. By going without lunch, I began to get a better understanding of what it is like to go hungry. Of course, I had a good meal waiting for me at home that evening, and I began to realize how fortunate I was to have other kid things to worry about besides when I would be able to satisfy my hunger. Those of us who do not want for food have no idea what it is like to go hungry and while fasting during Lent is supposed to allow us to focus on Christ's ministry and his journey toward the cross, it is a little hollow when so many "fast" as a way of life.

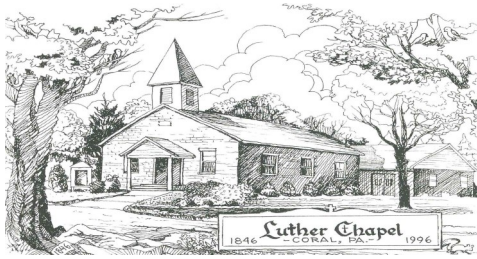
Going without a meal is an all too real issue in our society today. It saddens me that in a land of plenty, no let's be honest, in a land of excess, there are people who do not have enough food to eat. Children are especially vulnerable as often times adults who control what is bought for the household, use their small amount of cash for things other than food for their children.

It is easy for us to separate ourselves from this issue by rationalizing that our taxes pay for government food programs or by giving ten dollars to world hunger we are doing our part to feed the multitude. In fact, we have a hunger problem right here in Indiana and we should not ignore it. Our recently closed food pantry made a positive impact in the community and the dedicated members of Zion who volunteered each month to manage it were heroes of Zion's outreach ministry. Unfortunately, the food pantry became a victim of pandemic and our aging base of volunteers. We recently donated the remaining funds from the food pantry to other programs in our area. This was the right thing to do and I applaud our council for taking action on this. But is there more we at Zion can do?

Perhaps we can combine our need to fast during Lent, with an effort to make a positive contribution to the food insecurity issue in Indiana County. We can start by giving up one family meal a week and donating the money we would have spent on food to our Indiana area food banks. We could even extend this program throughout the year, providing a regular stream of funds to these vital community programs. We can designate one area food bank each month as recipient of our donation.

I will be asking council to approve this program for Zion at our March meeting. I hope you will find it in your heart to support it.

KH



## News from Luther Chapel - Part of the 3-2-1 Ministry—March

Luther Chapel services are held at 11:15 each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10:30-11:00.

We held our Congregational meeting last Sunday. We discussed our budget needs, our ongoing youth programs, and what to do with the interest earned in our Mission fund.

After much discussion we decided to send \$436.03 to the Grace Lutheran Church in East Palestine, Ohio.

Ash Wednesday Service was held at Luther Chapel at 7:00 pm

Maunday Thursday will be held at Zion at 7:00. pm

Good Friday will be at Luther Chapel @7:00 pm

Easter Sunday service will be held @ 7:00 am with a waffle and sausage breakfast following the service.

Our Youth Group is led by Darlene Beatty She will have a display set up for Family Fun fest at the Indiana Mall. Stop by and say hello to her. She is a wonderful leader for our group and always has activities for all age groups.

We are collecting for our disaster relief kits again this Spring. We need donations of new, but thin towels in dark colors if possible, nail clippers, combs in single packages, bars of soap, and tooth brushes. Tooth paste is added at the site.

We will bundle these kits on 4/15/23 at 12-2:00 pm as a youth group activity.

Darlene Beatty will also be at the Nature Palooza in Blue Spruce Park in June with a table and activities for youth.

## **Zion Announces Lenten/Easter Worship Schedule for 2023**

Lent and Easter are upon us and Zion's Worship and Music Committee announces our in-person worship opportunities for Lent and Holy Week.

Beginning on **Wednesday March 1, 2023**, Zion will be hosting a mid-week Lenten service at **7:00 PM**. This service will be celebrated in the office area as we did during Advent.

Passion Sunday services will be held at:

**Zion on Saturday April 1, 2023 beginning at 5:30 PM**

**Zion Sunday April 2, 2023 at 9:30 AM**

**Luther Chapel April 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM**

**Maundy Thursday** services will be held at **Zion on Thursday April 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday** services will be held at **Luther Chapel on Friday April 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**The Easter Vigil** will be held at **Zion on Saturday April 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday** services will be held on **Sunday April 9, 2023 at:**

**7:00 AM at Luther Chapel**

**9:30 AM at Zion**

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### **Easter Vigil Readers Needed**

Zion's Worship and Music committee has announced that Zion will again be hosting the Easter Vigil on Saturday April 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

We will be incorporating our traditional seven lessons and are looking for volunteers to read the lessons at the Vigil.

If you are interested in reading one of the lessons please contact Pastor Cogar

Below, are the Lessons that will be read at the Easter Vigil:

Lesson One: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Lesson Two: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Lesson Three: Genesis 22:1-18

Fourth Lesson: Exodus 14:10-15:1a (this will be sung by a choir member)

Fifth Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sixth Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Seventh Lesson: Daniel 3:1-29

## **Mid-Week Lenten Services**

Zion will be hosting a mid-week service on during the Lenten season beginning on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

The service will begin at 7:00 PM, and we will gather in the Zion Office area.

If you haven't yet taken advantage of these mid-week offerings, the worship and music committee encourages you add this as a stop on your Lenten journey.

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## **Zion Council Seeks Help....**

Zion's Council has been thinking, talking and praying about the future of our ministry. We want your input, too. It is so important to hear from each one in our church family. In order to do that, you will find newsprint and post-it notes in the back of the church. We are asking you to answer:

- What does our church mean to you?
- What is your vision for our church's mission?

You can write directly on the newsprint or on the post-it notes and then place them on the newsprint. You could also email your responses to . Council will review every (legible) response and allow it to figure in our planning. Feel free to talk to any council person with questions or ideas. We are also counting on your prayers for this process. They will be vital to finding God's will for us and not our own. We will be updating you as we move ahead in this process of prayer and discernment. Thanks for your companionship on this journey.

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## **Worship & Music committee announces changes to weekly bulletins**

Beginning with our Lenten season, the worship and music committee will be introducing a new look to our weekly bulletin.

First, we will be returning to the pre-printed bulletin covers. We will still be inserting the "Celebrate" but the bulletin will be expanded to include the confession and Nicene Creed. This will be much more user friendly, especially for visitors, as the congregation will not have to flip back in the hymnal to refer to these two important rites of the service.

In addition, the new bulletin will include the KYRIE, GOSPEL ACCLIMATION, THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER, AND LAMB OF GOD. The committee hopes that these new changes will make your worship better. We especially look forward to hearing from you concerning the new changes. Let us know what you think!

PRAY for those who suffer oppression, death, and tragedy. Please pray for those who travel. Please pray for those who serve in the armed forces and for their families. Pray for peace for all peoples.

We especially pray for especially Katrina Albright, Ron Anderson, Liesl Andrie, Jessica Badowski, Becky Bono, Susan & Bob Butchkoski, Jim Chapman, Adam Chilenski, Jeff Davis, Paul Davis, Donald Dustin, Akou Ester, Beth Ford, Harry Ford, James, Gallo, Heidi Good, the Guella family, Gene Hartzell, Bonnie Hilty, Chris Howard, Dan Howard, Diana Howard, Michael Kowchuck, Richard Lamberski, Ronda Leasure, Bishop Michael Lozano, Prisca Maier, Karl & Dorrinna Martini, Judy Matsko, Marvin McClure, Paula Miller, Dave Nycum, Shawn Otto, Loretta Piper, Scott Potterask, Sandy Prinkey, Bob Reifsteck, Jenn Rising, Jason Roney, Coleen Seagren, Aurora Shultz, Gladys Smith, Deborah Stephens, Denny Swanson Jr., Bob Tierney, Brett Tyger, Jane Williams, Dominic Yensi.

We pray for all those currently serving in the military especially, Zachery Horner, Mark Collins, Chad Beighley and Nicole Beighley, Matthew McEldowney, Corey Feretti and Franklin Feretti, and Stephen Davis.

We also pray for comfort and peace for our homebound including Geraldine Shatzer, Marietta (Mo) Foltz, Royce Walters, John Carloni and Bea Ruth.

**Prayers for our family and friends is a cooperative effort**

We at Zion, are privileged to pray for you and your loved ones and friends. Please be sure to let us know of your prayer requests. And it would help us so much if you could update us on the status of those on our prayer list.

We want to continue praying for those who are in need, to give thanks to God for those who have been healed and to pray for any family if they lost a loved one. That can only happen if YOU keep in touch with Zion's office and update us regularly.

You can speak to Beverly Monday through Thursday from 8 AM until 2 PM or email her at [zionlutheran@comcast.net](mailto:zionlutheran@comcast.net).

Thank you in advance for your partnership in this prayer venture.

NOTE: Zion council discussed our prayer list management at their recent monthly meeting. Council has suggested that a quarterly review be conducted on the prayer list. With that in mind we need your help in verifying that ALL who continue to need our prayer support remain on the list.

We grieve with the family of John Carloni. John passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2023. Funeral services will be private.

**GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

Needed for February operating budget:	\$ 12,899.74
Received in February:	<u>\$ 13,964.60</u>
Amount Still Due for February:	<b>\$ -1,064.86 (over budget)</b>

### **In-Person Worship Attendance and On-line Viewing Last Month**

<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>On-Line Viewing</u>
February 4 and 5	11	34	
February 11 and 12	10	31	
February 18 and 19	14	29	
February 25 and 26	15	26	

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### **Special Congregational Meeting Announced**

Zion Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting to take action on several amendments to our Constitution. These changes were discussed at the 2022 Annual Meeting and the congregation, by unanimous voice vote authorized council to call for a special meeting to finalize adoption of the proposed measures.

The congregation will meet on **Sunday, March 26, 2023**, following our 9:30 AM service.

A separate mailing has been sent to all members of the congregation under first class mail. That mailing also included details of the proposed changes. All of the proposed changes were also included in the February newsletter.

Members who have questions concerning the proposed changes to the constitution should contact any council member or officer for clarification.

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### **Audit of Zion 2022 Financials Completed**

On Saturday February 18, 2023 an audit of Zion's financial records for 2022 was completed.

Thanks to our auditors for donating their time to this important annual task:

**Gary Ellenberger      Sheri Bowersox      Ruth Houser      Becky Slade**

Special thanks to Becky Slade for coordinating our audit again this year.

Special thanks to Beverly Swatsworth for efficiently gathering all of the 2022 financial materials necessary to complete a clean audit.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Charles Houser  
Donna Woodall  
Dylan Brown  
Elizabeth Rohacheck  
Emma Sechrist-Lundberg  
Gail Sechrist  
Gary Ellenberger  
Helen Mehus  
Jenn Woomer  
Jill Otto  
Jim Carino  
John Barbor  
John Thorell  
Kate Metzger  
Katie Gresh Murphy  
Kim Balcerak  
Kyle Wunz  
Michael Guba  
Myka Black  
Nancy Mayr  
Nathan Houck  
Rachel Gill  
Rachel Ware  
Regan Houser  
Richard Lamberski  
Rik Wissinger  
Robbie Crouthamel  
Sandra Lockard  
Shirley Bush  
Shirley Horner  
Steven Kelly  
Susan Dahlheimer



## MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

January 9, 2023

**Call to Order at:** 6:30 pm

**Present:** Kevin Huston, Shirley Horner, Rik Wissinger, Dory Campbell, Pr Tedd Cogar, Kim Balcerak, Sheri Bowersox, Becky Slade, Sue Dickson, Kimberly McCullough.

Sheri Bowersox and Pernel Bowersox have both agreed to fill the 2 open positions on council.

Away: Gail Sechrist

**Devotions:** Sue

**December minutes:** 1 correction to a name. Motion to accept by Rik, second by Kim B.

**Communications:**

**Pastors Report –**

- David McCartney has had to withdraw from his class for medical reasons so he cannot do the spring internship. There is a possible reschedule during the summer term.
- Synod Council is holding sessions on leadership and encouraging leadership throughout the synod. More information later.
- Thursday this week Pastor will be in Warren, PA to lead a workshop on “Bias and Welcome” at a congregation.
- 

**Facebook/Website:** Sheri will continue with monitoring FB and will try to help with the website.

**Financial Report-** Zion ended 2022 with \$42,639 income over budget. Expenses were \$14,480 over budget (included the \$11,000 for roof repair). C & B ended with \$34,000 over the pledged amount for 2022. Motion by Rik, second by Kim to file for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

**Admin and Finance –** O2 accounts managements

In order to streamline some O2 accounts, six have been combined to two. A new named

1. Budget Surplus **account** contains: Special Focus Envelope (the matching funds special drive from 2020), Budget Surplus 2022, and Transfer to 2023 income (Pre-paid pledges for 2023). Total in this account is \$68,157.20.
2. Memorial Fund account contains: Bequest-undesignated, Other specials (?), and Undesignated Memorials. Total in this account is \$23,565.20.
- 3.

It is hoped that there will be further discussion and input from the congregation on uses for this money. A suggestion that this be brought up at the congregation meeting in March.

## **MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—cont**

**Staff Support** – Rik Wissinger.

- All 3 staff contracts are signed.
- New custodian Jim Laughlin's hours are Mon- Thur. 7:30am- 12:30 and Fri 7:30 am-11:30 am.

**Nominating Committee** – Don Seagren. No report

**Evangelism/Stewardship** – Dory Campbell

- Stewardship letters to make sure pledges are correct are going out tomorrow.
- Envelopes not picked up are getting sent out
- Final 2022 pledge report letters are going out.
- Discussion on expanding our effort toward engaging members, Power Surge book - Next month.
- Kim – Trip to Sight and Sound, “Mose” looking at possible dates in May or June.
- 

**Constitution** – Becky Slade

Letters have gone out, and Congregational meeting is set for March 26 after the service.

**Parish Education** – Gail Sechrist, not present, but report.

First Holy Communion starts in 2 weeks and they will have their First Communion on May 28.

Confirmation – Kevin will be starting this class soon for 2 teens and parent. 2hr session 1xmonth.

**Property** – Becky Slade- no report yet. Contracts for window replacements here.

**Rec and Fellowship** – Shirley Horner- The 2 freezers have been unplugged, and property trying to contact the company. They have been malfunctioning. Kitchen can use the freezer in old Food Pantry.

**Social Ministry** – Sue

Food Pantry – The donation checks and letters were sent out. Food gift cards will be purchased.

**Trinity 3-2-1** – Next meeting is Feb 14. Pastor asking that they look at schedule times for Christmas Eve services next year, giving him a bit more time between services.

**Worship and Music** – Pastor Tedd - The next meeting is Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. 6:30.

No other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45. Motion by Rik, second, Kim.

*The following testimony was given by Zion council member Kimberly McCullough at our February Council meeting. Kimberly's words rang especially true for us as we are beginning to explore the book "Power Surge" by Michael W. Foss. "Power Surge" provides a program where churches can change their operational model to one of leadership through discipleship. In the coming months as council and other interested congregation members begin to develop understanding of this new concept, we hope to share more information with you. I thought that Kimberly's testimony was worth sharing with all of you as an example of how we can more deeply share our lives with each other. Thank you, Kimberly, for allowing me to share this with the greater congregation.*

On Sunday, I found myself surrounded by several young men (and a few young women) during a Boy Scout Sunday Service at Shelocta Presbyterian Church.

During the sermon, the pastor spoke about all types of love. The one she kept mentioning was Agape Love.

When I was in high school, I was a part of a group of kids who attended a youth event called "Happening" that was held through the Episcopalian Church. For those of us who were on staff, we would have planning events every weekend in Monroeville, then twice a year over a long weekend the "Happening" event would take place at a church around Pittsburgh.

The last dinner, during this Happening Weekend, all of us as a group (both staff and participants) participated in "Agape Dinner". This dinner was put on by the adult volunteers. This is the only time I have heard of the word "Agape". To me, "Agape" just meant a fancy dinner and a closing of an amazing spiritual weekend. We would eat, talk, cry and pray. How naïve I was as a teen (and even know as a young adult) to still not understand the meaning of "Agape".

So when I was listening to this pastor speak of this "Agape Love" to these young children, I not only got hungry for those delicious twice baked potatoes that we would eat at every Happening Agape Dinner, but it made me realize that I still wasn't sure what the meaning of "Agape" was. This is when I realized I needed to pure my heart into the search of what "Agape Love" truly was for my devotional.

According to Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

The words "Agape Love" is one of several Greek words that describe love. Agape love is really nothing to do with feelings but rather a motivation to treat others well. When we are walking in "Agape Love" we are walking in sacrificial love. This sacrificial love leads us to voluntarily suffer inconvenience, discomfort, and even death for the benefit of another. By walking in this love, we love without expecting anything in return.

God has directed us to "Agape Love" and directs us to follow Jesus Christ's example.

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

God even tells us that it is a commandment for Him.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" John 13:34

I have realized during this process of understanding “Agape Love” that there is a difference between liking and loving and we can show love without liking the other person. Love is respect, and love is kindness. Walking in love is treating others with compassion and having empathy. Love includes forgiveness, whether asked of us or not. “Agape Love” is surrendering, surrendering to God and His commandment to “love one another”. In order to love like Christ, we must love with pure sacrifice.

God has called us to love and He also equips us to love. We, as Christians must surrender, must show love to those who hurt us and those who mistreated us.

When we surrender our hurt to God, He will heal our hearts. God will help us to set boundaries with those who we need to set boundaries with and help us to leave situations where we are in danger if we stay.

Let Us Pray:

Father God in Heaven, sometimes it is hard to follow your commandment to love others in the way that You have told us to love one another. We often have allow resentment, bitterness, anger and hurt to get in the way of “Agape Love”. Forgive us for not always walking in love and for allowing our emotions to dictate our actions. Lord, help us to love like You have loved. We pray that we are able to see everyone with compassion, empathy, grace and forgiveness. Lord, please help me to demonstrate sacrificial love towards others. We pray that You will heal any wounds that we are still holding onto and that You will set us free from bondage of un-forgiveness. Thank you Father for vastness of Your love for us and for teaching us the power of “Agape Love”.

In Jesus Name We Pray! Amen!

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 8, 2022**

**Call to order:** 7pm

**Present:** Kevin Huston, Gail Sechrist, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Sue Dickson

**Absent:** Pernell Bowersox, Kim Balcerak, Rik Wissinger

**January Minutes:** January minutes were reviewed, and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Gail and seconded by Kevin.

**January Financial Report:**

January showed an income at \$24,471, which was over budget. In addition \$6,200 was added from Cash Reserve as that was the early giving for 2023. January expenses showed increases to Gas utility, and Elevator. The elevator expense was from the expected annual inspection. Vacation Organist expense was increased due to some late submission of hours.

The O2 Account reorganizations were done and the “Bequest undesignated, Memorials Undesignated, and Other Specials” were combined to be called **Memorial Fund**. \$22,940

An **“In/Out”** O2 line created for funds for short term projects.

**Budget Surplus** O2 account now includes monies from Special Focus envelope 2020 and Budget Surplus 2022. \$25,895

Kevin proposed that council looks at investing some of the monies that are not tied up for immediate use within the next year into a CD or two. The interest rates for those are higher now than the S&T savings account. Ryan from the ELCA Foundation will be talking to Zion Council about the ELCA Foundation account at the next council meeting. It did show a decrease in 2022.

A Motion was made by Gail, and second by Kevin that the January financials be filed for audit.

**Old Business:**

Fish Estate- There is work in process to get the release of some of the estate funds, while leaving an amount to cover the fees being disputed by the previous Estate Attorney.

Window Project- Because of the delay in releasing the estate funds, we missed the Jan 31, 2023 deadline for a 3% discount.

Kitchen Project Contract – This is also being pushed to a later date due to the estate funds.

On-line Project - All materials are here.

**New Business:**

Sue has learned that the AED’s battery is low and will need to be replaced. This unit is now 12 years old and also out of the 8 yr. warranty. Sue has not been able to order replacement batteries because they have been on a worldwide back order for over a year with no date for shipping. With the age of the unit it might be better to look for a new AED. Sue will look into getting a new AED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

## WORSHIP & MUSIIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 28, 2022

**Members Present: Kathy Huston, Kevin Huston, Rik Wissinger, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Jan Cikowski, Sue Dickson,**

Topics Discussed:

1. The committee discussed cleaning the brass altar items (candelabra, altar candle stands) and set a date of March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM for assembling volunteers to clean these valuable Zion assets.
2. The committee heard from Dr. Clewell concerning the need to add voices for 2 upcoming services (April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Passion Sunday and April 30) so that music options could be expanded. The committee recommends that the money be appropriated for two male voices each Sunday at a cost of \$150.00 each.
3. The committee also heard from Dr. Clewell on her request to add a soloist for Zion's Easter Sunday service at a cost of \$100.00. The committee approved this expense.
4. The committee also heard from Dr. Clewell of her plan to relocate IUP's Martin Ott Portatif (a portable organ instrument) to Zion during the Kney organ rehabilitation project. The loan of the IUP instrument will be free to Zion. However, Zion will be responsible for the relocation costs both to Zion and returning to IUP after the Kney project is completed.
5. The committee heard from Dr. Clewell that Dave Keith will again be singing the two liturgical items during the Easter vigil. The committee was happy to hear that Dave will again be adding his very fine voice to the service.
6. Dr. Clewell also announced that the choir will be chanting the Psalms at this year's Maundy Thursday service.
7. The committee set the times for our Lent and Easter services.
  - a. **Mid-Week Lenten** services will be held beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> each Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 PM
  - b. **Maundy Thursday** services will be held at **Zion** at 7:00 PM on Thursday April 6, 2023
  - c. **Good Friday** services will be held at **Luther Chapel** at 7:00 PM on Friday April 7, 2023
  - d. **Easter Vigil** services will be held at **Zion** at 7:00 PM on Saturday April 8, 2023
  - e. Easter Sunday services will be held as follows:
    - i. 7:00 AM "Sunrise" service at **Luther Chapel**
    - ii. 9:30 AM at **Zion**
1. The committee also approved a request from Zion's choir to change the Lenten communion hymn to **ELW # 496 "One Bread, One Body"**

**Recommendation to Council: The committee is seeking advice from council for a plan to fund the needed repairs to the Kney organ. Repairs are scheduled to begin in 2024.**

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday March 28, 2023 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Huston

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 21, 2023**

**Members Present: Becky Slade, Jim Laughlin, Jerry Ruffner, Kevin Huston, Dave Keith, Kathy Huston**

### **Completed Projects**

1. 1/24/2023 - Environmental Pest Control performed their monthly pest control
2. 1/24/2023 – Don Ross performed a semi-annual inspection of the elevator (\$225.00)
  
3. 1/29/2023 – Miller Plumbing ordered a new sensor for the pre-school area thermostat (\$89.50)
4. 2/9/2023 – Jewert Electric repaired the choir loft spotlight
5. 2/16/2023 – Ron Lukehart repaired the garage roof where tar paper was loosened by the wind.
6. 2/20/2023 – Brock Landscaping submitted a bill for plowing and salting services performed year-to-date there were 6 visits at a cost of \$660.00
- 7.

### **On Going Projects:**

1. The stone steps at the Church Street “red door” entrance will be repaired in November 2022. Jim made several calls to Russ Crane reminding him of his commitment to complete this project
2. All materials have finally arrived for the new on-line ministry program. Contractors will now be scheduled to run the necessary fiber optic cable and installation of the new audio and video equipment will begin.
3. Kitchen renovations, approved by the congregation, will commence once funds are received from our legacy benefactor.
4. Window replacement operations, approved by the congregation, will commence once the funds are received from our legacy benefactor.
5. The Nave roof replacement project, approved by the congregation, may be revisited in 2023 after successful repairs and sealing were performed this past month.
6. Committee member Becky Slade was able to sell the Coke machine for \$200.00
7. Sue Dickson found homes for the two freezers no longer in use. Chevy Chase Community Center and Creekside food bank have agreed to make use of the freezers. Bob Shively at McNaughton’s will be contracted to remove and deliver the freezers.
8. The committee discussed contacting Russ Crane to provide plastering services for the Church Street door entrance and the stairwell leading up to the choir loft.
9. The committee heard a request to install a second railing on the steps leading from the nave to the hallway at the office area level.
10. The committee is awaiting a bid for adding heat wrap to the down spouts south 6<sup>th</sup> Street side of the church
11. The committee discussed a plan to replace the lightbulbs in the Nave center aisles.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES—cont**

**2023 Projects**

- 1.The committee is researching for a vendor to address our ongoing bat infestation problem.
- 2.The committee will explore creating a Columbarium in our new green space area. This would be a designated space to allow for a final resting place for ashes.

**Available Funds for Projects**

Capital Improvement Account Balance: \$ 21,982.27

ZARP Account Balance: \$ 9,046.16 (reserved for green space)

**The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Formal recommendations to council: NONE**



## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 23, 2023

### Items that we should consider addressing:

#### • Welcoming atmosphere

- Do a building audit – directions to various rooms i.e. office, restrooms, SCS classrooms. Library, elevator, choir loft, pastor's office, Social Hall, Chapman Room, others? Perhaps initially use laminated card stock signs printed from the computer. Move to real signs when funds are available
- **“Crying Room”** to listen to sermon and rock child or allow child to play. Maybe a rocker, changing table and a toy or ten. Work toward having a nursery with parents taking turns after we have enough toddlers again
- Train ushers to identify visitors with questions like – I don't believe we have met before OR let me introduce myself. And you are??? Also, be sure that members invite visitors back next week
- During announcements someone who talked to a visitor, introduce them to the congregation
- Be sure bulletin is visitor-friendly. Don't print “Talk to Mary Jones” but instead have it say “If interested in more info call or text Mary Jones at 724.123.4567” etc.,etc.,etc.
- Have the next weeks' activities listed in bulletin in case visitor wants to participate. Have office and pastor's phone number listed in bulletin, too. (I think it is). Also be sure to list when and where refreshments are for say, coffee hour or similar event
- Be sure there are directions for taking communion, receiving ashes, etc. either given orally or in the bulletin
- Ideally, name tags for everyone, but maybe begin with using pew pads as before
- Other items

#### • Care for each other:

- Telephone chain Pastor wants this ASAP
  - **Could the facebook page serve for this??**
  - Confidential unless member gives ok to be shared.
  - Permission to be listed on prayer chain, too
  - Immediate need

#### **a. Launch a new prayer Facebook page that is for members and friends**

- b. Cards sent for birthdays, get well, sympathy, encouragement
- c. Calls, if wanted, prior to surgery, during recovery, during bereavement, congratulations, thank you for service, kindness. . .
- d. Possible casserole “shower”. Check for allergies or major dislikes
- e. Other ideas

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MINUTES—cont**

### 1. Have a “volunteer opportunity” fair

- a. Committees each have a table with an activity that highlights their work, also “job descriptions” for volunteer opportunities on your committee. Sort of competitive because we are all striving for members/disciples to help us with our committee’s mission. We might be able to make it a mission fair and include the synod and their ministries like World Hunger or Advocacy or whatever

### 1. Do things that will get our love of God front and center

- a. An idea I’ve had for soooo long is to have a float in the Christmas parade. We could include Christ Episcopal and of course, Calvary. We could all promote our worship services by handing out a flyer listing them all with a candy cane attached). Signs on float “SEE YOU IN CHURCH SUNDAY”

### 1. Current Facebook & Website

- a. Use social media to keep people informed about our ministry
- b. Be sure that each week each committee gives the webmaster updates for their work, events, successes, opportunities for volunteering, etc.
- c. In order to keep Social Media current, send webmaster photos and news of your committees at work monthly AT LEAST
- d. Launch the new prayer page**

### 1. Partner with REC & FELL to plan fellowship events that will be fun and build community. Be sure to hold as many as possible on yard so they are visible.

- a. Maybe hold a Mother’s Day brunch. Everyone brings something that evokes a memory of growing up, of their grandmother, of a family tradition, etc. And before and during the meal we would talk about that item.
- b. A Valentine Party – how do we include widows and widowers?
- c. A Pairs and Spares group
- d. A bowling competition, maybe include Campus Center & Luther Chapel??

\*\*\*\*\*

# Think Spring





ZION ROAD TRIP  
“SIGHT AND SOUND” (Lancaster, PA)  
“MOSES”

Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023

Time: Will leave Walmart parking lot (near the old Rita’s Ice) 9:00 AM.  
Arrive back at Walmart parking lot around 11:30 PM/midnight.

Place: Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA....Set adrift as a baby,he is an unlikely hero – until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai.

Price: \$199 per person  
\$151 children (ages 3-12)

Price includes tickets to production (will be in center section 102, Rows L-M-N). We will stop at Middlesex diner in Carlisle, PA for brunch before the show (you are on your own). Dinner after the show will be at Miller’s (Smorgasbord) included in your ticket price.

Minimum of 30 people are needed to reserve the bus, reservations and payment need to be in by May 26, 2023. Please make all checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. For additional information contact Kim Balcerak at 724/388-2341 or , or Zion Lutheran Church at 724/465-5597, .



SIGN UP FOR TRIP—"MOSES"

Sight and Sound (Lancaster, PA)

Number of persons attending:

Adult's \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) Attending:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Only need a phone number for the contact person.



March 2023

Date	Lay Reader	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
Mar 4/5	5:30- 9:30-Josh Widdowson	Sat-AM-Jan Cikowski, PM - Bev Wissinger Sun-Kathy Huston	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Jim Slade	5:30-Rik Wissinger 9:30-Jenn Rising	Kim Balcerak
Mar 11/12	5:30-Kami Dugan 9:30-Jenn Rising	Sat AM-Kathy Huston, PM-Shirley Horner Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Dave & Linda Ma- lin 9:30-Don & Dawn Seagren	5:30-Kevin Huston 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
Mar 18/19	5:30-Kalise Dugan 9:30-Gail Sechrist	Sat-AM&PM Sharon O'Keiff Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissin- ger 9:30-Gary Ellenberger	5:30-Rik Wissinger 9:30-Jenn Rising	Kim Balcerak
Mar 25/26	5:30-Claudia Ditch 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	Sat-AM&PM Louise Bu- chanan Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Dave & Linda Ma- lin 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	5:30-Kevin Huston 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
	Jenn Rising	Kathy Huston	5:30 Dave Malin  9:30 Dave Keith Pernell Boxwersox	Kim Balcerak	

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Narcotics Anonymous meetings Sunday evenings	Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Wednesday evening		1 7 Mid-week Lenten Service	2	3	4 5:30 Liturgy
5 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Practice 10:40 Choir Practice Sunday School		7	8 <b>6 Adm/Finance Mtg (Special Time)</b> 7 Mid-week Lenten service	9 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	10	11 5:30 Liturgy
12 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Practice 10:40 Choir Practice No Sunday School	13 6:30 Council Mtg	14	15 7 Mid-week Lenten service	16	17 Zion office closed	18 5:30 Liturgy
19 9:30 Liturgy 8:30-Choir Practice 10:40-Choir Practice Sunday School	22	21 7 Property Mtg	22 7 Mid-week Lenten service	23	24 Zion office closed	25 Noon-3 Baby Shower 5:30 Liturgy
26 9:30 Liturgy 8:30-Choir Practice 10:40-Choir Practice No Sunday School	27	28 6:30 Worship & Music Mtg	29 7 Mid-week Lenten service 7 Parish Ed Mtg	30 Newsletter Mailed	31 Zion office closed	



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 100 S 6th ST  
 INDIANA PA 15701-2736

Phone: (724)465-5597  
 Fax: (724)465-4512  
 Email: zion.lutheran@comcast.net  
 On the web @www.zionindianapa.org

Date Mailed: March 2, 2023

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 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Indiana, PA 15701  
 PERMIT #196

CHANGE SERVICE  
 REQUESTED



**PASTOR/PASTORAL CARE**

Pastor Tedd Cogar 724-422-4676 tcogar@iup.edu

**ZION STAFF**

Dir. of Christian Ed	Jennifer Rising
Administrative Assistant	Beverly Swatsworth
Sexton	Jim Laughlin
Director of Music	Christine Clewell

**TRINITY 3-2-1 MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES**

Rik Wissinger  
 Barry Widdowson

**ZION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kevin Huston (Pres)  
 Rik Wissinger (Vice Pres)  
 Sue Dickson (Sec)  
 Gail Sechrist (Treas)  
 Kim Balcerak (Fin Sec)  
 Becky Slade  
 Dory Campbell  
 Kim McCullough  
 Pernell Bowesox  
 Sheri Bowersox  
 Shirley Horner  
 Pastor Tedd Cogar