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## Prayer – A daily activity worth doing

Prayer has always been a big part of my life. I guess I can thank my mother for that. You see, she took very seriously the pledges she made at my baptism. Early in my childhood, the Lord's prayer was recited a lot. In addition, I was exposed to a lot of corporate praying. You know the kind of praying I mean. We all do this type of praying each week during the prayers for intercession. We hear topical prayers designed to fit the scripture for that day as we ask for God's help with changing our hearts to be better stewards of our earth and better neighbors to each other. We also pray for those who work in vocations that heal and protect us and for those who have gone before us to God's loving embrace. There is even a space for us to add individual intercessions, but I rarely hear myself or anyone else offer anything. Perhaps this is because we are embarrassed to mention any need we have in our lives or we fear we don't have the skill to present our petition in the right format. Either way, I wish we were comfortable with each other enough to have more of that personal touch in our corporate prayer life. Perhaps our continuing study in the "Power Surge" discipleship process will provide us with the tools to add those personal prayers into our corporate settings.

My mother was big on private prayer too. She often found that seeking God through prayer helped to calm her anxiety with a problem or relationship and opened her mind to finding solutions to problems or patience in dealing with difficult situations. She said many times that asking God for help instead of asking God to fix, left it to her to solve a problem or alter a situation. You see she believed that she was a "free will" child of God. God is the creator, but God is not the manipulator. God has left it for her to live her own life and God, when asked, would provide through the Holy Spirit, the tools she needed. Of course, she already had those tools, but she just needed encouragement to use them.

When we moved to the suburbs we joined a small congregation in Swedesboro, Christ's Church Old Swedes. This congregation became our home. It was a congregation with a rich Swedish Lutheran history that now belonged to the Episcopal diocese of Pennsylvania. Its roots pre-date the revolutionary war and we found that the congregation, though small, was full of faithful people who shared our (my mother's) faith values.

Growing up in the city, my mother never needed to have a driver's license. When we moved to the suburbs, learning to drive became a necessity for her. My parents bought a 1958 nine passenger Mercury station wagon so that mom could navigate through the suburbs to church, school and grocery stores. So, mom needed that license to make her suburban life work. I remember the day my mother went for her driver's exam. Back then the test was given by PA state troopers at a special driving course. My dad



was at work so one of the neighbors agreed to take my mom for the exam. Our neighbor had four small children and our three made seven. We all piled into our new station wagon, no seatbelts or car seats back then, and went to the test track. I could tell that mom was nervous about navigating this behemoth through the course. I am sure she silently asked for God's intervention as she entered the torture chamber that was the driving test course. We all climbed out of the car and took our places on a hill beside the course. Our neighbor had brought a bag of penny candy along and we were all sitting on the bank of the test track watching the action like Roman citizens watching lions and Christians in the coliseum. My mother did fine until the dreaded three-point turn, which she could not navigate in the long station wagon (no power steering either). The trooper looked over at all of us sitting on the bank, cheering my mother on, and said to her, "Are those your kids?" And my mother said, "Yes they are". Now technically, only three belonged to her, but the trooper failed to follow up so she left him with the impression that we all belonged to her. He stated "Lady you really need this license so I'm going to pass you." Perhaps my mother prayed, asking the Holy Spirit to change the heart of that State Trooper so that he might see no real danger to putting my mother behind the wheel of that station wagon! Or perhaps my mother plotted to present the most sympathetic atmosphere toward that examiner to give her an edge for a successful result. Either way, she got that license.

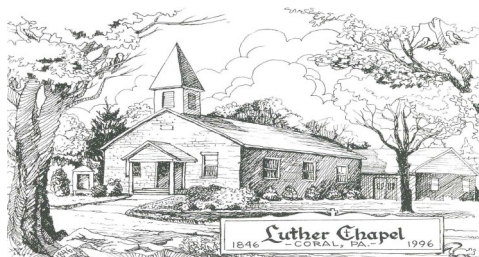
The simple act of praying is one activity that, over the years, has been a part of me. I, by nature, am a planner and need order in my life. Yet often times I am thrust into situations that are disorganized chaos. The anxiety this creates for me is overwhelming at times and asking God to help me find patience in these situations usually, but not always, helps. Kathy and I have recently been dealing with her early Alzheimer's diagnosis. The uncertainty, and sometimes the chaos that exists in our lives today can really stretch the limits of one's (my) patience. Kathy started an infusion therapy two years ago that is designed to slow the progression of the disease. The results of this therapy are hard to judge as we do not know if things have progressed slower than they would have without the therapy. While Kathy's cognitive test scores have remained relatively constant, I have noticed that her short-term memory is declining. This is where the prayer for patience comes in. I have to constantly remind myself that I need to be calm and patient in reacting to Kathy's memory loss. I reassure her that her condition is not her fault and that I am now here to fill in the gaps for her so that she does not feel anxious or frightened as she cannot remember events and conversations that took place only 30 seconds past.

I began to accompany her on her visits to our homebound congregation members. We have a great deal of fun taking the Eucharist to our Zion shut-ins. These folks are anxious for news from the church and grateful for our visits but we get even more out of this ministry than they realize, because it provides Kathy with a chance to interact with people other than me. Since she has been a Eucharistic minister for a very long time, the service is still fresh in her long-term memory and she performs the service flawlessly.

We are grateful that we can still provide some service to Zion and we constantly pray that we can continue to do so. Our current situation has shown the value of prayer in helping us through the normal everyday life we now live.

I truly believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is always there to help in small and quiet ways. We just have to seek the help we need. My mother didn't need the Delaware river to part so she could cross to New Jersey but she did need that driver's license. As we continue to pray, let us thank God for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

KH



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

Each Sunday at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend Sunday School.

Church Service begins at 11:15 am All are welcome to attend Easter breakfast was fun and delicious. Thank you to Dale and Jim Keller for cooking and thank you to everyone for bringing covered dishes.

The youth group lent project to collect material to make disaster relief kits was a success. We collected enough to make 40 relief kits. Thank you to all for helping.

The June youth group activity will be the Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park. This is a free family event running from 10:00am to 3:00 pm. All are welcome.

Our Ladies tea will be May 21, 2023 from 4:00-6:00 pm at our Luther Chapel Social Hall. We will have Lou Ann Baker coming to speak to us as Ruth from the Bible. She did a fantastic job as Mrs. Noah and I can't wait to see her as Ruth.

WELCA meets weekly on Wednesday at 2:00-4:00 for making blankets. We currently have around 30 blankets and making more.

Our monthly WELCA meetings are the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 in the Social Hall. We have a business/planning meeting and then a Bible Study from the Gather Magazine.

Darlene Beatty is starting a teen night 1st Sunday of each month from 6:00pm-8:00 pm and the 2nd Sunday of each month Young Adult Night. 6:00 to 8:00. For more info call Darlene at 724-541-5168. All are Welcome. Please Come.

Prayers are needed for return to health for Gary Alsop.

Our condolences to the Betty Gallo family who held a memorial service for Jim Gallo.

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.

Remember all those requesting prayer: Ron Anderson, Mike Bash, Tom Brown, Susan & Bob Butchkoski, Jim Chapman, Adam Chilenski, Jeff Davis, Paul Davis, Beth Ford, Harry Ford, the Guella family, Gene Hartzell, Chris Howard, Dan Howard, Diana Howard, Richard Lamberski, Bishop Michael Lozano, Prisca Maier, Karl & Dorrinna Martini, Judy Matsko, Darla Mechling, Paula Miller, Dave Nycum, Shawn Otto, Fred Park, Loretta Piper, Bob Reifsteck, Coleen Seagren, Bob Tierney, Jane Williams.

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.

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**GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF APRIL**

Needed for April operating budget:	\$ 12,899.74
Received in April:	<u>\$ 13,731.60</u>
Amount Still Due for April:	<b>\$ -831.86 (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>
April 1 and 2 (Palm Sunday)	7 (Storm)	38	
April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	35		
April 8 and 9 (Vigil & Easter)	39	79	
April 15 and 16	18	28	
April 22 and 23	16	26	

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**GRADUATION TIME**

Graduation time is fast approaching. If anyone knows of students who are graduating from high school or college, please give the information to the church office so it can be included in the announcement. Needed are student's name, college student attending, college grad's future plans.

## **Zion's First Quarter Financial Report**

We got off to a strong start in 2023 as our current and benevolence contributions totaled \$59,391.80. This total included \$53,391.80 contributed in the calendar year 2023 and \$6,200 that was pre-contributed in 2022 for our 2023 budget year.

Our total contributions through 3/31/2023 (all income categories) totaled \$61,356.76. This was 39.64% of our 2023 income budget.

### **Thank you all!**

Our total expenses for the first quarter of 2023 were \$46,166.78. This was 29.82% of our budgeted expenses. Our first quarter expenses included higher than expected utility costs, higher than expected maintenance costs for the elevator, and higher than expected costs for building repairs.

The building repairs line item included costs to repair the stone steps entering the church from the South Sixth Street-Church Street location and the re-plastering of the walls at the main entrance to the nave that sustained damage due to our water leak that has since been repaired.

Zion council also voted to increase our contribution to the Northwest PA Synod from \$24,000 to \$30,000. This was in response to the Synod's request that all member churches strive to contribute 20% of their projected annual income for Synodical and National church program support. Zion's original Synod benevolence contribution of \$24,000 was 15.5% of our budget projected income. Our revised Synod contribution raised that contribution percentage to 19.4%

### **As of 3/31/2023, we had first quarter budget surplus of \$15,189.98**

Administration and Finance acted to take advantage of increased CD rates and moved \$75,000 to an S&T Bank 1 year CD paying annual interest at 4.25%. The funds Invested contained \$19,000 from the Endowment Fund, \$19,022 from the Steinway Piano Restoration Fund (which is a dedicated account that has had no activity for many years), \$6,102 from the Youth Gathering Fund (a dedicated account with funds for the 2024 Youth gathering) and \$30,876 from our operating cash fund (this left a balance of \$124,009 in that fund). Our money market annual interest rate is 0.012%. This move will generate an additional \$2,287 in interest for budget year 2023.

## **Zion Continues its Food Pantry Support**

While we no longer have a Food Pantry to distribute food to our area neighbors who are in need, we can still help with Indiana's food insecurity by contributing to the other local food pantries who are still working hard to ease hunger in our area.

Zion's council has endorsed this effort. Those of us at Zion who still wish to contribute to help feeding our neighbors in need, can do so by donating each month to "Food Pantry". We will combine our monthly "Food Pantry" offering and then distribute it to one of our local food banks.

You can support this program by sending your contribution along with your regular Zion offering. Please make the dollar amount you wish to contribute to "Food Pantry" by marking that amount in the "Food Pantry" box on your contribution envelope.

We will select a different food bank each month and send our collected monthly contributions to that food bank.

We will be sending our **MAY** donation to: **Calvary Presbyterian Church**

## The Kney Organ Refurbishment Project

The centerpiece of our worship life at Zion is in need of refurbishing. The Kney organ has served Zion for over 40 years, providing us with a majestic accompaniment to our hymns and inspirational music during our prelude, postlude, offertory, and choir anthems. We have also been the recipient of concerts and special music as area musicians were eager to play or accompany the Kney with their music skills.

We are at a crossroads now as we must decide whether or not to shoulder the financial burden of refurbishing the Kney. Our congregation has lost much in the last few years. Membership is down. This creates issues for our leadership as we manage church finances with declining funding. Our membership has been generous to Zion's financial needs but frankly we continue to struggle with budget essentials. Fortunately, we have recently received significant gifts that have allowed us to address some long-neglected building issues. It is easy to get discouraged about us and our future. But Zion will carry on as there are still faithful people here. Our recent interest in creating a disciple-based community of worship at Zion, gives us hope that Christ is alive at Zion and we can continue to be an active oasis of faith in Indiana PA.

But the having the Kney, at Zion goes way beyond the walls of our nave.

Our Director of Music, Dr. Christine Clewell, recently provided some insight into the significance of having the Kney organ at Zion.

*"For the four major principles of stewardship in preserving Zion's storied Gabriel Kney Organ, I write.*

*1. Music Ministry Outreach and Evangelism to the community between 1978 since its installation and Lent 2010 ( and beyond), at least 50 non Zion members have attended faculty and guest organ concerts with internationally acclaimed organ artists: Martha Folts (year of the Dedicatory Recital); Drs. Marilyn Mason (before and in 2000 and 2011), Ann Labounsky (2x); Margaret Evans (2009); Christoph Kegenhoff, Guy Whatley, Libby Larsen and at least three International Festivals of Women Composers; local AGO chapter events with regional organists have performed at least five events since 2017, and most recently since Sept. 2022 with the Patriot's Day program.*

*2. Music Ministry and Outreach and Evangelism to the IUP students since 1978 to present day with at least three student organ-related events per year up to March 1, 2020. This is a modest number—it is likely that 100 people per year have collectively attended these events, which include the Advent and Lenten Organ Recitals followed by soup and fellowship drew more non-Zion members into the church than members.*

*3. Preserving the Lutheran heritage and tradition of our sung faith and its distinct role in theological history where congregation singing is carried by a pipe organ since the 1600's.*

*4. Zion's Gabriel Kney Organ provides organ instruction for students and non-students where musically aesthetic inspiration of both extrinsic and intrinsic value serves the rural, western PA region...where both the IUP faculty, IUP organ and music alumni, and non-organ students of the university are reached throughout this region. Since 1978, Zion has established itself as a historically significant venue where people gather to hear great music, secular and sacred music, in a remarkable space that is unparalleled east of Pittsburgh and west of Harrisburg. Zion possesses an impactful identity serving the role of patron of the arts to a rural region where organists gather for instruction and inspiration.*

*Our congregation should measure its worth and impact by those within and beyond its walls...to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ by sharing the powerful role that music plays in nurturing the souls of the masses and preaching the healing power of the Gospel through music with many voices gathered in profound ways with organ music at the helm”.*

The old saying: “You don’t know what you have it until you lose it” certainly applies to us when it comes to the Kney organ. Our congregational forefathers had the vision to invest in this exceptional musical instrument. They bore a large financial responsibility to ensure that Zion would have the best musical experience possible. Zion’s membership back then, steeped deeply in both instrumental and vocal music, joyfully shared their talents in praising God every Sunday and the Kney provided the ultimate accompaniment for them.

As we assemble on Sunday, there is no doubt that we are no longer the congregation we were when the Kney was first installed. And while our choir is small, it is faithful and powerfully supported by the Kney. Can we really imagine worship without this glorious instrument?

We have recently invested in better building access options for us to use when entering Zion. We have improved the look and functionality of our social hall and we will begin in 2023 to address upgrading our kitchen and the building’s exterior windows. Refurbishing the Kney will provide encouragement that we are here to stay and that the Kney will continue to provide inspirational music for future Zion congregations.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alicia Akers  
Brayden Stile  
Candace Adamson  
Cole Otto  
Coleen Seagren  
Dana Piper  
Daniel Piper  
Dave Keith  
Dave Woodall  
David Malin  
David Piper  
Gage Hess  
Jacque Jacobs  
James Slade  
Larry Ditch  
Martha Wunz  
Michael Widdowson  
Nancy Weaver  
Roman Carloni  
Stephen Wunz  
Susan Belford  
Susan Dickson

Friends,

As I write this note, my scripture for the day is from Ephesians 2:5, *“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”* We are called to unity in Christ and with each other. We are called to imitate Jesus. But what does that mean for Zion Lutheran Church? How are we to move forward together in mission? What has God pressed upon **your** heart for Zion? Help us move forward being of one mind. Tee us, how should we fulfill our mission?

At the front of the church, next to the baptismal font are two easels with questions on them to try and help us get at the matter. Only a handful of people have shared with Zion Council how they would proceed. **PLEASE**, take a moment. Prayerfully answer these questions or in some way let us know your vision for our work as a family of faith at Zion. When we choose what God intends, he will send the resources — both people and monetary ones, as he always has. Let us pause and listen to where God is calling us to work. Then let us talk to each other and collectively move into that discipleship for Christ.

Dory Campbell, Zion Council Person

### **ZION’S MISSION**

**God calls us into a community in Christ  
to gather for worship;  
share the good news;  
reach out in love and service to our world  
using the gifts God gives us;  
and support one another in our ministries.**

## **MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

**March 13, 2023**

**Call to Order:** 6:35 pm.

**Present:** Kevin Huston, Rik Wissinger, Gail Sechrist, Dory Campbell, Becky Slade, Kimberly McCullough, Kim Balcerak, Sue Dickson.

**Absent:** Shirley Horner, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Pernell Bowersox, Sheri Bowersox

**Devotions:** Kim's devotions told of some interesting information on St. Patrick and his work to bring the Lord's word to those in Ireland. A prayer was said noting Pastor Tedd's 10<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary on March 17.

**February Minutes:** Name correction. Motion to approve by Rik and second by Kim.

### **Communications:**

Pastors Report- none

Facebook/Web site- Dory has sent some suggestions to clarify items on the Website to Christoph.

### **Financial Report-**

February Current and Benevolence was above budget. Some increased expenses above monthly budget were Gas utility, Phone, and Devotional materials. YTD expenses were slightly above budget. A \$75,000 CD was purchased from S&T at 4.20%, (due 2/20/24).

A motion was made by Dory and seconded by Kim to accept financial report and file for audit.

### **Committee Reports-**

#### **Administration and Finance- Kevin**

Synod Benevolence Increase- We have received a letter from the Synod concerning our benevolence giving. Synod is asking congregations to aspire to increase their benevolence giving to 20% of their annual total current and benevolence giving. In 2022 we gave \$24,000 (\$2,000/month) which was 12.7% of our 2022 total Current and Benevolence giving of \$188,804. Some expressed concern about us having a sudden increase. Based on our 2022 C&B giving, if we raised our Benevolence by \$6,000 for a total of \$30,000 this year that would work out to 15.9%. That would be an additional \$500/month. Motion made by Becky and seconded by Kim that we increase Benevolence giving this year to \$30,000.

O2 account review and reorganization. – A \$75,000 CD was purchased from S&T with a 4.25% interest. The money was from the savings account and extra from the checking account. This allows for much better interest earnings while the money is not immediately needed.

#### **Staff Support-** Rik Wissinger

Jim is working well, learning where everything is. Beverly out one day, but doing well.

#### **Nominating Committee-** Don Seagren No report

Sight and Sound information is in the bulletin. The trip to see Moses is July 13. Deadline to Is M 31.

## MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—cont

### **Evangelism/Stewardship-** Dory Campbell

The committee is working on the list of actions as presented last month. Cards are going out.

Power Surge Follow-up – Post it notes are going up on the boards at front of the church. We will meet again March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for further discussion.

Sight and Sound information is in the bulletin. The trip to see Moses is July 13. Deadline to Is M 31.

### **Constitution-** Becky Slade

Audit follow-up – The Audit is complete with no major problems.

Meeting set for March 26 10:30 am after church. Meet to vote on the amendments corrections to Constitution.

### **Parish Education** – Gail Sechrist

Gail announced that Jen Rising will be stepping down as Director of Christian Ed. after June

VBS - No VBS at Zion this year. Dory said that Calvary may have a VBS and may be able to work with Zion.

Sunday School children will be singing at 9:30 service on May 28.

First Holy Communion will be on June 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a suggestion that we have a picnic after the service that day.

### **Property** – Becky Slade

The cement steps at the Church St. corner door have been leveled and fixed. Work will continue to repair a patch on the garage roof where shingles were blown off.

### **Rec and Fellowship** – Shirley

The committee met to come up with some funeral menu options that would be more doable with the small volunteers we have available. The options have been printed, and a copy to go into the file for what to do when a funeral is planned. It is hoped that if plans are being made that Shirley gets contacted, along with the committee to see if a funeral luncheon is feasible with the staffing available.

### **Social Ministry** - Sue

The two freezers have been donated, and moved to Chevy Chase Community Center and Creekside United Methodist Church Food Pantry. They are BOTH very appreciative of the generous donation from Zion Lutheran Church.

There is still excess food sitting in the Food Pantry with most of it now passed Best By date. What is usable will be distributed to pantries.

“Pass the Cheese please” – Zion would still like to continue support of Food Pantries in the area and will start a program of Food for Indiana monthly giving project. Information will be announced each month in the newsletter for donations to be collected for a different Food Pantry each month.

**Trinity 3-2-1** – Rik Wissinger The Committee is working on planning more shared events.

### **Worship and Music** – Kevin

The new bulletins seem to be working well. A few corrections were needed.

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

### **Old Business-**

Sue has purchased a new AED but was recently informed the 4-6 wk backorder is now 10-12 weeks. The current AED still has a charge.

### **New Business-**

Organ refurbishment- The Bruner Company from Silver Spring, Pa has drawn up a proposal to Zion for repairs of the Kney Organ. (Copy of the proposal given to Council) There is much to be repaired, and Bruner recommends that the 3 phases/projects be done at the same time with an \$8,000 savings. Total proposal is for \$135,544 but this proposal is only good till the end of May. This company is now scheduling into 2025. This work would take approximately 3-5 months if done all at once, so the organ would only need removed once. A 10% down payment would be needed at contract signing, (\$12,750) and remaining payments at start, midway and end of repairs. Much discussion on how to raise funds for this, options for organ use during repairs, and how and when to approach the congregation for funds. A notice for a special Congregational meeting will be planned for Sunday April 30, 2023. Letters to announce the meeting will go out to the congregation.

No further business, meeting **adjourned at 8:04 pm**

*The following testimony was given by Zion council member Becky Slade at our March Council meeting. Becky's words rang especially true for us as we continue to explore the book "Power Surge" by Michael W. Foss. "Power Surge" provides a program that teaches churches how to 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. Becky's testimony as part of our council meeting devotions, was worth sharing with all of you as an example of how we can more deeply share our lives with each other. Thank you, Becky, for sharing this with the greater congregation.*

### **An Emphasis on Touch**

We have the ability to touch - and to perceive touch. Our skin is the largest sensory organ of the body. Physical touch immediately answers many questions. Touch tells us the temperature, texture, and is it wet or dry? Feeling makes us human and that's why we say "touching" to many things. We hear and are touched by music, or words in a book. We are touched by the impact of seeing something visual in art or nature. The simple act of some one's kindness is "touching." Maybe a comforting hug or a hand on our arm, a call, a text, or a card in the mail. We say, "We are in touch with, or I've fallen out of touch.

How do we keep in touch with God?

The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo painted in the Sistine Chapel depicts God giving Adam the spark of life. Quite often shown in pictures as only their hands, index fingers nearly touching. Viewing a picture of the entire fresco they are definitely reaching out to each other with their arms fully extended hands almost touching.

We read through out the Old Testament how God communicated by talking directly to Adam, Noah, Moses, Abraham, and others. God sometimes sent an angel to deliver his message. At other times the Lord delivered his message in a dream.

Touching.

We can only assume that Mary and Joseph given the great responsibility of raising God's Son, touched Him, caring for Him, swaddling Him in loving kindness and meeting His needs as He grew.

Touching.

When Jesus began his ministry delivering God's message to the people, He had the ability to physically touch them. When Peter began to sink while walking on the water, Jesus reached out and caught his hand.

Touching.

Jesus blessed the children by putting his arms around them and laying his hands on them.

Touching.

Jesus healed many the blind, the lame, and those crippled with many infirmities by touching them. He touched the unclean. When the woman with the hemorrhage touched His robe, Jesus was immediately aware that power had gone from Him. He asked, "Who touched my clothes?" The woman extended her hand and by faith was healed. Jesus in turn knelt and washed the feet of his disciples.

Touching.

Jesus gave us a new commandment that we love one another. A reminder to reach out in love. We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in this meal the bread and wine are His body and blood shed for us.

When the elements are consecrated they are touched. Receiving communion we reach out and touch the bread and with our hands the cup of wine. When we eat this bread and wine touch our hands, lips, and mouth becoming part of our body. Jesus as bread and wine touches us. The bread (body) and wine (blood) which we consume consumes us to make us more like Jesus.

Lead by the Holy Spirit let us reach out with the light of Christ that is in us to touch one another. We can strengthen this by incorporating the Marks of Discipleship from the book Power Surge into our daily lives.

1. Pray daily A daily devotional is a good beginning. At our house we subscribe to three that we use. Two are from Guideposts, Mornings with Jesus and All God's Creatures. The third is The Word in Season from Augsburg Press. We recently added a fourth Christ In Our Home available on the windowsills at Zion, through the generosity of one of our members.

Touching.

Just a few minutes everyday dedicated to reading scripture, praying, meditating, and being still. I'm connected by group text to my sister in Virginia and my sister-in-law in Colorado. In addition to keeping up with family news, we pray for each other and share our daily devotions. We are in touch by text.

2. Worship weekly In person or online. If you've fallen out of touch, welcome back Zion is reaching out.

3. Read the Bible This one is easy if you don't already, hopefully it's part of the daily devotions you've just added to your day.

4. Serve at and beyond Zion Lutheran Church Our lives and the lives of our children have been enriched by the interactions we have had within this congregation.

Touching.

5. Be in a relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others. Give of my time talent and resources. In the devotional Mornings With Jesus every day has a Faith Step encouraging the reader to do more to reach out. Remember it's God's Work and Our Hands. Please keep in touch.

Holy Spirit, prompt us to share our faith, time, talents, and move us to do good works. Open the eyes of our hearts to recognize the needs of our neighbors and to touch the world with your love. Amen

## **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 12, 2023**

**Call to order:** 7:02

**Present:** Kevin Huston, Gail Sechrist, Kim Balcerak, Pernell Bowersox, Sue Dickson, Pastor Tedd Cogar.

**Absent:** Rik Wissinger

**March minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by: Kim and second by Gail.

**Financial Report:** Financial report presented for March.

C & B income was above budget about \$1,000 and put the total for the year so far at 39% of the annual budget. Expenses: The Synod benevolence amount was increased to the \$2,500 per month as voted on at the March 2023 Council meeting. Church repair expenses included Masonry charges for plaster repair in the 6<sup>th</sup> street entranceway and repair to the church street entrance steps. There were charges also for repairs to the garage roof. YTD expenses are at 29.8% of budget where target is 25%.

### **Old Business:**

**Fish estate-** The check has been deposited into the money market. An O2 account line has been created titled - Estate Memorial Fund. Again per our constitution 10% must go to endowment fund. The estate check was for \$506,000, so \$50,600 must go to endowment. Kevin showed a plan to invest some of the estate money in a high interest 5yr CD (5.1%). It would contain some of the fish estate, and undesignated extra operating cash.

### **New Business:**

The Worship and Music committee is looking into repair or replacing the altar candelabra and torches. When they were preparing for the Easter services we found that there was a lot of wear and tear of the torches. The brass is almost all worn off. They are also looking into replacing some Albs for the Assisting Ministers. These are ideas of some things that could be funded by the Undesignated Memorial funds (\$22,600 balance).

The AED is still on back order. Caroline Anderson has offered to pay for it in memory of her husband Pastor Anderson. Sue will contact Caroline and discuss arrangements. The AED is still on back order and no charge yet.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.



## **WORSHIP & MUSIIC COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 25, 2023**

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

Topics Discussed:

1. The committee discussed having an outdoor service option on Saturday evenings as weather permits this summer. The committee designated June 10 and June 24 as being outdoor services.
2. The committee reviewed this past year's Holy Week services
3. The committee discussed changing the hymn that proceeds the prayer for peace.
4. The committee discussed purchasing new robes for the Assisting Ministers – We will research the cost and number of robes needed and submit a request to council to use Memorial Fund money to make purchase of the robes. The committee also received private funds for the purchase of seasonal cinctures to be worn with the new robes.
5. The committee discussed improving audio volume when outside during service openings at Palm Sunday and Easter Vigil.
6. Also, assistance is needed to position the mics for the lectors during the vigil
7. The committee discussed having our altar brass (candelabra and torches) either regilded or replaced. The committee will review costs, time schedules if regilding, and submit a request to council to use memorial fund monies for this purpose.
8. The committee discussed the Kney Organ refurbishing and made plans for fund raising if the congregation approves proceeding with the project at the April 30, 2023 special congregational meeting. A mailing asking for pledges over a 5-year term will be sent to the congregation.
9. The committee discussed a possible visit from the bishop in May 2023
10. The committee selected hymns for the remaining Sundays after Easter, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, and Sundays After Pentecost.
11. The committee chose a new prayer for peace and a new hymn to sing before the prayer for peace. The committee will also explore engaging with the High School for extra choir voices during the holiday services.

### **Recommendation to Council:**

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday May 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Huston

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 18, 2023**

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

### **Completed Projects**

- 3/31/2023 – Eastern Elevator called on Elevator door malfunction – Parts Ordered
- 4/4/2023 – Eastern Elevator repairs malfunctioning door censor (\$2,695.00)
- 4/11/2023 – 1-2-3 Locksmith reviewed door issues with Glass Church Street Door and Main Nave Door
- 4/12/2023 – Inspection for a second bid for Kney Organ refurbishment was performed
- 4/19/2023 – Door repair will be performed by 1-2-3 Locksmith
- 5/4/2023 – Boiler inspection is scheduled

### **On Going Projects:**

1. Replacement contractors are being sought to run the necessary fiber optic cable and installation of the new audio and video equipment will begin.
2. Committee will be meeting with Pennington Construction to review bid from 4/22/2023 and schedule project work to be done as funds are now available to complete the project.
3. Window replacement contract will be signed and deposit paid to allow phase “A” of Zion’s window upgrade project to get underway. A project completion schedule will be published after contractor has been consulted.
4. Council has voted to delay the Nave roof replacement project, approved by the congregation. After recent repairs to the nave roof, council is delaying the project to improve Zion’s future cash flow.
5. Russ Crane is providing plastering services for the Church Street door entrance and the stairwell leading up to the choir loft.
6. The committee notified Ron Lukehart Home Specialists that they were awarded the bid to replace the garage roof with asphalt shingles.
7. The committee is seeking vendors to repair parts of the sidewalk that could create a tripping issue.
8. The committee is seeking vendors to bid on a new church sign at Church and Sixth Streets.

Becky Slade has agreed to spearhead finding a landscape architect to create a plan for the green space on the south side of the church.

### **2023 Projects**

1. The committee is researching for a vendor to address our ongoing bat infestation problem.

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, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Formal recommendations to council: None**

EASTER 2023

EASTER FLOWERS SYMBOLIZE “FOOD FOR BUTTERFLIES” WHICH CARRIES THE THEME OF TRANSFORMATION CHRIST THE FIRST - FRUIT OF THOSE WHO HAVE “FALLEN ASLEEP”. THE USE OF BULBS (TULIP, LILY, MUMS) ADDED THE DIMENSION OF NEW LIFE FROM THE OLD SEED, THE NEW ADAM (MAN) FROM THE OLD ADAMAH (EARTH). IN ANY CASE, THEY ARE NOT “JUST FLOWERS” BUT LITURGICAL EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH AND THOSE WHO MEMORIALIZE THEM EXPRESS THEIR HOPE-IN-CHRIST CONCERNING THEIR LOVED ONES.

FLOWERS

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>	<i>Sue Dickson</i>
<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>My Family &amp; Friends who prayed for me</i>	<i>Dr. Richard Lamberski</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Helen Myers</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Nancy Malacarne</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Joseph Bushless</i>	<i>Diana Metzger</i>
<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>Kate &amp; Nathan Metzger</i>	<i>Diana Metzger</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Helen Myers</i>	<i>Paul Myers</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Parents—Eldon &amp; Janice Schlundt</i>	<i>Gail Sechrist</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Our Parents</i>	<i>Barry &amp; Peggy Widdowson</i>

CANDLES*Candelabra Candles*

<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>My Family &amp; Friends who prayed for me</i>	<i>Dr. Richard Lamberski</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Helen Myers</i>	<i>Paul Myers</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Our Parents</i>	<i>Barry &amp; Peggy Widdowson</i>

KELLY JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Suzanne Clark</i>	<i>Karen Gresh &amp; Katy Gresh Murphy</i>
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**Register for  
SUMMER CAMP!**



**www.lutherlyn.com**  
**724-865-2161**

You Are Invited to

## **CAMP BLAST!**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023, 11 am - 4:30 pm**

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all Lutherlyn has to offer. Horseback riding, campfire, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, archaeology, jump pillow, kayaking, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE! The best part... EVERYTHING IS FREE!!

[www.lutherlyn.com/campblast](http://www.lutherlyn.com/campblast)

### **\$100 OFF for FIRST-TIME campers!**

This coupon code entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee.

This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week campers get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**  
(Please, share this code with friends!)

Register at [www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp)

Like "Camp Lutherlyn" on Facebook  
for regular updates!



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.





## **Green Corner** NWPA Synod Green Team

### **CREATION-FRIENDLY END OF LIFE INTERMENT**

There are currently two main methods for caring for the dead which use renewable natural resources, reduce our carbon footprint, and restore and preserve habitat.

GREEN BURIAL, often called NATURAL BURIAL involves no vaults or grave liners. The body is not embalmed. Containers used are made of natural or plant-based readily biodegradable materials. The body is buried at 3.5'-4' deep, with an 18" smell barrier. Natural burial is legal in most states, including PA, NY and OH. The nearest green burial certified funeral home is Burton Funeral Home in Erie ([burtonfuneralhome.com](http://burtonfuneralhome.com)) For further info, go to [Greenburialcouncil.org](http://Greenburialcouncil.org)

NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION (HUMAN COMPOSTING) is a relatively new burial alternative in which a person's remains are turned into usable soil. This involves placing the body in a special container and surrounded with natural materials like wood chips and alfalfa. Decomposition takes about a month, with the human remains broken down gradually into a nutrient-dense soil mixture, resulting in about a cubic yard compost. Non-organic matter like dental implants are sorted out, and then loved ones can take the entire result for use in a backyard garden or forest.

Human composting saves about 1.2 metric tons of carbon compared to traditional burial methods. The cost is usually more expensive than direct cremation but cheaper than traditional burial. It currently is legal in New York, Colorado, Vermont, California, Washington and Oregon, but additional states are considering it.


Go to [axios.com/2022/11/21/human-composting](https://axios.com/2022/11/21/human-composting) for further information.

Search for [NWPA Synod Green Team](#) on Facebook and also at this link:

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

All past issues of the "Green Corner" can be found at the following link:


<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/the-green-corner.html>



## May 2023

Date	Lay Reader	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
May 6/7	5:30-Kami Dugan 9:30-Beth Grafton	Sat-AM Kathy Huston, PM- Shirley Horner Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Pernell Bowersox	5:30-Jenn Rising 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
May 13/14	5:30-Kalise Dugan 9:30-Josh Widdowson	Sat AM & PM-Sharon O'Keiff Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Dave & Linda Ma- lin 9:30-Jim Slade	5:30-Rik Wissinger 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
May 20/21	5:30-Claudia Ditch 9:30-Jenn Rising	Sat-AM&PM Louise Bu- chanan Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissin- ger 9:30-Don & Dawn Seagren	5:30-Kevin Huston 9:30-Jenn Rising	Kim Balcerak
May 27/28	5:30-Karen Gresh 9:30-Gail Sechrist	Sat-AM Jan Cikowski, PM- Bev Wissinger Sun-Kathy Huston	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Gary Ellenberger	5:30-Rik Wissinger 9:30-Kevin Huston	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>
	1	2	3 7 Adm/Finance Mtg	4	5 Zion office closed	6 5:30 Liturgy
7 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Practice 10:40 Choir Practice No Sunday School	8 6:30 Council Mtg	9	10	11	12 Zion office closed	13 5:30 Liturgy
14 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Practice 10:40 Choir Practice No Sunday School	15	16 7 Property Mtg	17	18	19 Zion office closed	20 5:30 Liturgy
21 9:30 Liturgy 8:30-Choir Practice 10:40-Choir Practice No Sunday School	22	23 6:30 Worship & Music Mtg	24	25	26 Zion office closed	27 5:30 Liturgy
28 9:30 Liturgy 8:30-Choir Practice 10:40-Choir Practice Sunday School	29 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed/Jim Off  THANK YOU !	30	31 Newsletter Mailed 7 Parish Ed Mtg			Narcotics Anonymous meetings Sunday evenings



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

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**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 Bowersox  
 Sheri Bowersox  
 Shirley Horner  
 Pastor Tedd Cogar

**NEXT NEWSLETTER MAILED — May 31, 2023: Deadline: May 12, 2023**

**THERE IS NOW A LINK ON THE ZION WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE TRUMPET**