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Lent – A time for Sacrifice and Fish Fries

As we enter the month of March, we are about midway into our Lenten journey. Perhaps you have noticed that our services are a little less joyous. There is a solemn mood to our prayers. We sing the Lord’s Prayer during lent. Our mid-week Lenten gathering has become a chance to reflect on our faith and how we see ourselves as followers of Jesus. We celebrate the Eucharist, as we should, but its ties to the last supper, the final meal between Jesus and the disciples have a little added meaning during Lent.

My mother loved the Lenten season. She never missed a chance to have us make sacrifice. Perhaps it was her living through the depression. And after her father died at such a young age, leaving my mother and grandmother essentially on their own, she knew a lot about sacrifice. She lived it. So, it was no surprise that she always insisted that we all give up something for Lent. This had to be something that we really enjoyed. It could be a favorite food, a favorite TV show (no DVR in those days so one could not cheat and record the shows for playback at Easter) and nothing that was required like homework from school (this would never do in Miss Hamill’s fifth grade class). One year I suggested we give up going to church! You can imagine how that went over. Back in those days. I was a big fan of Tasty Cake Butterscotch Krimpets. They were a dessert staple in my school lunches, so I usually chose this as my Lenten sacrifice. My mother, knowing my love of them, easily agreed that this would be the proper vehicle to show my repentance.

While I understand my mother’s desire to instruct us on what it means to make sacrifices in our lives, and certainly the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness sets up a good biblical example, I think that what we really should take away from our Lenten experience is not what we give up but what we could add to someone’s life. Isn’t this the real point of Jesus’ commandment. We are to love and care for our neighbors. Lent is a great time to provide a positive act of caring while making sacrifice. Skipping a family meal and sending the money we would have spent on that to a local food bank fits this bill.

But my mother was undeterred. So, at our house, Lent meant sacrifice and that meant fish had a greater presence on our weekly menu. My mother was not the



best cook when it came to fish, so she usually called “Mrs. Paul’s” into service. I particularly like their crab cakes but we usually were faced with fish sticks on Fridays. There is not enough ketchup in the world to make those fish sticks go down easy.

When I finally escaped my mother’s Lenten traditions by marrying Kathy and moving to Western Pennsylvania, I found that Lent was also a time for Friday fish fries. Fish Fries are a tradition in our area. Churches especially hold these events as a way of fund raising and providing fellowship to their membership and the community they serve. But volunteer fire companies also provide these Friday fish fries. The Kiski Township Volunteer Fire Department sponsors one in our area. Two of our faithful Saturday evening liturgy attenders, Chuck Rodnicki and Shirley Horner, are members of Kiski VFD. Kathy and I have attended their Friday Fish Fries and we found the atmosphere welcoming and the food good. The fire department has a large group of volunteers who turn out to cook, serve, and make sure all are fed efficiently with pleasant service and a smile. Many who serve the tables are the children of the fire department members, making the whole event a family affair. You get the sense that this group is a caring and dedicated linchpin for the community. Supporting the volunteer fire department fish fries, provides us with an opportunity to give a little back to those who sacrifice so much to serve and protect their community.

Much of what I have written over the last few months has centered on Jesus’ commandment to love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind, and to love each other as you love yourself. Following this commandment is not easy to do so. We all have trouble with the love our neighbor part. It makes us uncomfortable when we are confronted with neighbors who are different than we are. We are much better at loving the neighbors who are Lutheran, the same race as we are, living the same life style we do and lately voting for the same candidates as we do. It seems that our neighborhood is shrinking by the day.

But with volunteer fire fighters you find a much different take on Jesus’ “Love your Neighbor” commandment. These brave men and women leave their homes to serve whenever the call comes in. They are there for their neighbors whether it’s pumping out a basement after a heavy rain, assisting with EMS at a traffic accident, or fighting a house fire. To be sure this is dangerous work, but they ignore the danger focusing instead on providing aid, protection, and comfort to the neighbors they serve. One thing you will notice with the selfless acts these brave individuals perform is that they never ask who they serve about their race, religion, lifestyle or politics. They rightly view the people they serve as neighbors. That is enough.

We should all take this example of selflessness to heart. While we all do not go to fight house fires, we all can support to a greater degree those who do. I doubt that those who serve in these volunteer capacities see themselves as living Jesus’ commandment to love and serve others. But they do, every time that siren sounds calling them to service. We can do no better in following Jesus’ commandment than this. It’s an everyday responsibility, it’s a dangerous vocation, it’s a life changing act of self sacrifice. Just ask a volunteer fire fighter.

Trinity 321 Lenten and Holy Week Schedule Announced

Trinity 321 has announced the service schedule for our upcoming Lenten and Holy Week services

Lent 2024

Ash Wednesday:

Wednesday February 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Lenten Mid-Week services will be held as follows:

Lent 1: Wednesday February 21, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Lent 2: Wednesday February 28, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Lent 3: Wednesday March 6, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Lent 4: Wednesday March 13, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Lent 5: Wednesday March 20, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

These services will be held in the Zion office area. The service will provide time for prayer and discussion and be followed by a Eucharist.

Holy Week Services will be held as follows:

Passion (Palm) Sunday:

Sunday March 24, 2024 – 9:30 AM at Zion

Sunday March 24, 2024 – 11:15 AM at Luther Chapel

Maundy Thursday:

Thursday March 28, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Zion

Good Friday:

Friday March 29, 2024 – 7:00 PM at Luther Chapel

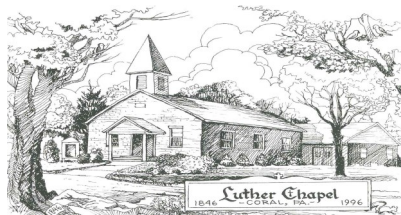
Easter Vigil:

Saturday March 30, 2024 – 5:30 PM at Zion

Easter Sunday:

Sunday March 31, 2024 – 7:00 AM at Luther Chapel

Sunday March 31, 2024 – 9:30 AM at Zion



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

We held our Congregational Dinner and Meeting on February 18, 2024 after the Sunday Service. We enjoyed a delicious beef dinner with all the sides and plenty of delicious desserts provided by our members and Pastor Tedd.

After the meal the business meeting was called to order and the minutes from last year were read and accepted. There were no comments or questions on the bulletin of reports.

On the matter of the Mission Investment Fund, a motion was made that we use the interest funds to help defray the expenses of having our Vicar Jane. That motion was seconded and approved.

Our Council offices are:

Dale Keller President. Property committee
Janet Akers Vice President. Evangelism Co chair
Kathy Keller Secretary. Evangelism Co chair and Outreach.
Sarah Shaffer. Treasurer. Finance
Linda Alsop Financial Secretary. Worship and Music

Many thanks go out to Darlene Brown for her years of service and to Gary Alsop for his many years. Well done good and faithful servants. Darlene will remain on the Education and as Youth Leader Committee. If anyone wants to have instruction for their child please contact her or a council member or Pastor Tedd for information.

Sunday School begins at 10:30. Sunday Service is at 11:15.

We had a concern about the newsletter not getting to people. Please reach out to Zion to give them your address. In the mean time we are going to begin posting our News from Luther Chapel on our Facebook page. Just search under Luther Chapel and it should pop up.

Synod Council representatives for June will be Sarah Shaffer and Kathy Keller.

WELCA members meet every Wednesday at 2:00 to 4:00 to make blankets for disaster relief. We also make preemie blankets for the NICU unit at Conemaugh and newborn kits for new mothers who might need help. These are distributed through CYS of Indiana. We are wrapping up our latest project of making pillows from T-shirts for the Girl Scouts. The next business and Bible Study will be March 2, 2024.

The Easter Schedule is Good Friday at Luther Chapel at 7:00, Easter Vigil at Zion at 5:30 and Easter Sunday at Luther Chapel at 7:00 am, followed by breakfast of waffles and sausage prepared by Dale and Jim Keller.

Sincerely KKeller



COME & SING GABRIEL'S PRAISES!
Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM
Prelude music begins at 2:40 PM
Sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church
100 South Sixth and Church Streets
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701

“To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.” (Stanza 4, *Valet will ich dir geben*)

Join us for an afternoon concert to rededicate Zion's newly refurbished Gabriel Kney organ. Following a ten-month refurbishment, we are thrilled to welcome back the glorious chorus of sound of Zion's Kney organ.

Come and hear a great program of music written for organ, brass quintet, vocal and choral works. Come and sing great hymns of our faith.

This concert will feature a professional brass quintet performing with Dr. Christine Clewell. Assisting in the program are the following musicians:

Prelude music will be performed by IUP Organ Alumni Dylan Brown and Marissa, Bruno; and IUP organ student, Kevin McKenrick;

The Brass Quintet includes: Kevin Eisensmith, trumpet; David Ferguson, trumpet; Dennis Emert, French Horn; Christian Dickinson, trombone; Zach Collins, tuba.

Ms. Florrie Marshall, violin and viola;

Vocal solos performed by Meghan Carlin and Christopher Jackson;

Helen Myers Memorial Church Music Scholars 2023;

Members of Zion's dedicated choir.

Admission is free.

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

<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
February 3 and 4	16	29
February 10 and 11	16	33
February 17 and 18	14	28
February 24 and 25	15	32

FOOD PANTRY MONEY

In 2023 Zion distributed Food Pantry monetary donations to over 10 local food pantries in our area. For 2024, monetary donations for Food pantry will be sent to ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world.

Social Ministry collection for Family Promise - Beyond Shelter Store

During Lent, Zion's outreach will be to help our neighbors in need at Family Promise of Indiana Co. We will be collecting non-food items to donate to Family Promise's **Beyond Shelter** store.

The Beyond Shelter store allows low income and underemployed individuals an opportunity to purchase non-food items (not usually at food pantries) at a reduced price so they can save more of their cash resources to pay their rent and utilities, aiding their ability to maintain independent living. The small fees generated help to support Family Promise of Indiana Co and their programs to help the unhoused. The shelter store is located at the Family Promise day center, and is open for those registered families who meet eligibility requirements.

Zion Lutheran Church will be accepting the following items **during February & March**. Please think of this project when you are shopping. There will be a box in the back of the church to place them.

All-purpose cleaner	Feminine products
Bathroom cleaner	First aid items
Toilet bowl cleaner	Liquid Hand soap*
Dish soap	Shampoo
Laundry detergent (max 69oz.)	Conditioner
Dryer sheets	Lotion – body or hand
Floor cleaner	Q tips
Paper towels – single rolls	Tissues
Toilet paper- single wrap or 4 pack only	Toothpaste* - adult
Body wash – men's & women's	
Deodorant- men's & women's	
Chapstick	

*They have plenty of toothbrushes and bar soap

NexTrex Recycling Film Challenge - Bench for the Rossman Shaffer Garden

We have signed up with NexTrex for a 1-year challenge to recycle 1,000 lbs. of plastic, film and bags.

If the goal is met, we will receive a very nice Trex bench to place in the Rossman Shaffer Garden (formerly known as the Greenspace).

We encourage you to save your bags, and drop them off in the collection boxes that will be placed at both entrances. Let's start keeping the plastic out of our landfills!

Please take note of the list of acceptable and unacceptable plastic films listed below.

If anyone would like to help us with managing this challenge, please see Sue Dickson. 724-388-5000.

Items to include:

Produce bags, store bags, Ice bags
Ziploc and other re-closeable bags
Cereal box liners
Case overwrap –ie around water cases
Bread bags
Newspaper sleeves
Dry cleaning bags
Bubble wrap
Plastic e-commerce mailers
*See if the package will **stretch** when you pull it.
If yes, it can be included.

Please do NOT include:

Frozen food bags
Candy bar wrappers
Chip bags
Pre-washed salad mix bags
Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
Six-pack rings
Vinyl shower curtains/table clothes
PPE –gloves
Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap
*Shiny?, Crinkly sound in hand?
Do NOT use

Capital Improvement Project Update

At our February leadership meetings, members of Administration and Finance and Council received an update on the status of our two remaining major Capital improvement projects.

The Kney refurbishment project is nearing completion. We expect to have the Kney operational in late February. To date, we have paid out \$59,136.70 of our \$116,315.00 project commitment. This leaves us with \$57,178.30 remaining to be paid. Our pledge campaign resulted in pledges of \$80,395.00. To date, we have received \$32,075.00 toward fulfilling those pledges leaving us \$48,320.00 remaining.

The window projects for the office, Sunday school and pre-school areas are scheduled to be completed later this Spring. We have paid \$54,217.79 toward our total project commitment of \$207,892.00. This leaves us with \$153,217.79 remaining to be paid at completion of the project.

The chart below provides a summary of the capital improvement projects addressed in 2023

Summary of Zion's Current Available Cash vs. Project Commitments			January	2024
Project Needs	Contract		Paid	Balance Due
Kitchen Renovation Project	\$ 58,918.09		\$ 58,918.09	\$ -
Window Replacement Project I	\$ 182,950.00		\$ 45,737.50	\$ 137,212.50
Window Replacement Project II	\$ 24,942.00		\$ 8,480.29	\$ 16,461.71
Kney Organ Refurbishment	\$ 116,315.00		\$ 59,136.70	\$ 57,178.30
Elevator Repair	\$ 4,450.00		\$ 4,450.00	\$ -
Bat Removal	\$ 9,548.00		\$ 9,548.00	\$ -
Funace Room Roof Support	\$ 4,743.60		\$ 4,743.60	\$ -
Marque Sign	\$ 4,470.00		\$ 4,470.00	\$ -
Total Funds needed	\$ 406,336.69		\$ 195,484.18	\$ 210,852.51
Cash Available (2-01-2024)	Cash Source	Cash Used	Expected Balance	Kney Pledges
Budget Surplus	\$ 19,221.80	\$ 19,221.80	\$ -	
Net Operating Funds	\$ 188,774.12	\$ 70,671.12	\$ 118,103.00	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 120,959.59	\$ 120,959.59	\$ -	\$ 48,320.00
Total Funds needed	\$ 328,955.51	\$ 210,852.51	\$ 118,103.00	
Cash Uncommitted				
Uncommitted Net Operating Funds	\$ 118,103.00			
Estate Memorial Fund 1st Summit CD - 5/9/2024	\$ 200,000.00			
Total Cash in Reserve	\$ 318,103.00			

We have three sources available to provide funding to complete the remaining projects. These three sources have a total of \$328,955.51 in available cash and \$48,320.00 in pledged cash. After completion of these projects, we will still have \$118,103 in available cash and \$48,320 in promised cash for a total of 166,423.00. In addition, we have \$200,000 in uncommitted cash in the form of a 12-month CD. Zion continues to be in a solid financial position as we move into the 2024 fiscal year.

Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

Earth Day April 22, 2024 – Earth Sunday April 24, 2024

Earth Day brings thoughts of doing good things for all of creation on earth. Perhaps it is best to start this celebration with prayer and contemplation.

Dear God help us remember that we need to think of everything you have created as special and holy. Please lead us to recognize that we must be careful to avoid harming what you have created – animals, plants, mountains, water, air. Lead us to care for all that you have created. Amen

Involve children, adults, your family and your congregation in activities such as:

- Join the worldwide effort to eliminate or reduce single use plastic containers (beverage, food, other merchandise containers). Ask that participants keep a list of substitutes they use and items where a substitute could not be found.
- Plant a tree, at a location that allows. For planting guidance go to www.bhg.com.
- Earth Day Scavenger hunt: See www.buildingfaith.org for kid-appropriate ideas.
- Organize or help with a nearby litter pick up, with permission, on land or a nearby stream (*and* make it one of your routine activities). Keep track of which items are found most often, as well as the more unusual. Make prior arrangements for disposal of the found items.
- Start a compost pile, coffee grounds and other kitchen food waste – small insects we cannot see are essential to our food production and the air we breathe.
- Learn about bats – how they help in control of insects and pollination, as well as the threats they face now. Consider placing a bat box on your property.
- Learn about bees, including their importance for pollination. Install a beehive – or help someone else with theirs – bees are essential to our food crops. Find a local beekeeper to learn about beekeeping.
- Learn about birds and their tremendous decline. In the past 50 years the North American bird population has declined by approximately 30%.
- Write letters to your federal and state legislators and a local newspaper whenever an environmental issue appears in the news.

Celebrate Earth Day with your Family and Congregation! Pray for God's Creation!

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

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

Happy Anniversary Pastor Tedd

Pastor Tedd will be celebrating the anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, March 17, 2024. Our worship service will include special music and hymns which Pastor selected for the occasion.

Trinity 321 is hosting an anniversary luncheon at Hoss's on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 1:30 PM. Please contact the church office or your Trinity 321 representatives (Rik Wissinger, Barry Widdowson) to make a reservation for the luncheon. Attendees will be responsible for paying their own way.

We hope to see you there and look forward to this wonderful opportunity to celebrate with Pastor and share fellowship with each other.

Zion's 2024 Pledge Campaign Ends on 3/31/2024

It is not too late to send in your Current and Benevolence pledge for 2024.

We currently have 33 pledges totaling \$120,150.00. In comparison we had 44 pledges in 2023 totaling \$139,270.00.

We are very close to reaching our pledge totals for 2023. We urge you to consider joining your fellow members in making a pledge toward our 2024 budget.

We have approved a more robust budget for 2024. We have expanded our ministry with the addition of Vicar Jane Miller. We have increased the budgets of both the Recreation and Fellowship and Evangelism committee so that funds would be available for more enhanced membership and outreach programming.

As we strive to reach the level of contributions necessary to consider calling full time pastoral support, our church leadership views 2024 as a critical year toward demonstrating that our congregation is committed to support this effort.

The future of Zion's ministry is in your hands.

If you have not already, please consider a pledged commitment toward our 2024 budget.

Pledges can be mailed to Zion's office using the pledge card and reply envelope sent to you in December. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please call or stop by the office and a new pledge card can be supplied for you to complete your 2024 pledge.

PYSANKY 2024

Darla Mechling has organized an egg decorating class. The class will meet in the Zion Social Hall.

Classes start on Wednesday February 7, 2024 and will meet on the following Wednesdays:

- Wednesday February 14, 2024
- Wednesday February 21, 2024
- Wednesday March 6, 2024
- Wednesday March 13, 2024
- Wednesday March 20, 2024
- Wednesday April 3, 2024
- Wednesday April 10, 2024
- Wednesday April 17, 2024

Classes start from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The class instructors are Alison McFarland and Cindi Boyer

You can register for the class by calling Alison McFarland at 724-354-4686

A \$20.00 start-up kit fee will be charged, for supplies to new students.

Each participant should bring a #2 PENCIL and a BOX OF KLEENEX. Two blown-out eggs will be provided for each new member

We will be using the kitchen and if you wish to bring something for lunch please do so.















The opportunity to donate to the church for expenses will be provided each week.



Ukrainian Easter Eggs "Pysanky"

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS FOR UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS

Devout Ukrainian women, when beginning to decorate Easter eggs (Pysanky), make the sign of the cross and whisper, "God help me!" This is to assure that the profound religious meanings symbolized in the designs shall come to life in the people who see them on Easter morning. Here are some of the symbolic meanings:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RIBBON or BELT – either around egg or length-wise means "the endless line of eternity" 2. DOTS or SMALL CIRCLES – stars, constellations, or Mary's tears. 3. LITTLE SIEVE or NET – suggest fishing for men 4. LITTLE BASKETS or TRIANGLES – symbolizes Holy Trinity 5. LADDERS – suggest prayer 6. ROSE or EIGHT POINTED STAR – ancient symbol for Christ, and also the Resurrection of the Savior 7. CROSS – the four corners of the world, and also the Resurrection of the Savior 8. LEAF or FLOWER – suggest life and growth 9. PINE NEEDLES – suggest long life, youth, and health 10. FISH – ancient symbol for Christ 11. DEER and HORSES – wealth and prosperity 11. BIRDS – fertility and fulfillment of wishes 12. GRAPEVINE – "Good fruits" of the Christian life 13. BUTTERFLY – symbol of the resurrection 14. OTHER MOTIFS: a. ears, b. windmill, c. sun, d. rake, e. rooster's comb, f. church, g. ram's horns, h. wheat, i. spider, j. goose feet |               |
|--|---|



Don't forget to SAVE THE DATE "WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024", Zion is planning a trip to Sight and Sound to see the production of "DANIEL". More information to follow in our newsletter and bulletin.

Coming Soon!

Gabriel Kney Organ Fundraising "Fancy Dinner"

When was the last time you had a real fancy five course meal. Well, here is your chance! Zion's Recreation and Fellowship committee is hosting a "Fancy" dinner to raise funds in support of the refurbishment of our Gabriel Kney Organ. Although the organ refurbishment is now complete, we have a funding shortfall. This dinner has been organized to help cover this.

When: Friday April 19, 2024

Seating is for 30 people only

Seating will take place at 6:00 PM

Dinner will include: Appetizers, Soup, Salad, Main Course, Dessert

Cost is \$75.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser for the Kney)

Reservations: To reserve your place at the "Fancy Dinner" table please call the church office (724-465-5597)

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: Ken Adam, Susan Adam, Caroline Anderson, Ron Anderson, Tina Anderson, Mike Bash, Rich Bush, Susan Butchkoski, Dory Campbell, Jim Carloni, Adam Chilenski, Ann Cogar, Deb Cosgrove, Jeff Davis, Paul Davis, Kalise Dugan, Jennifer Faught, Ernie Fisher, Beth Ford, Carol Forster, Jen Frick, the Guella family, Bonnie Hilty, Lois Hoffman, Chris Howard, Dan Howard, Diane Howard, Family of Warren & Vicki Isakow, Family of Sue Johns (sons-Avery & Holden), Bishop Michael Lozano, Prisca Maier, Richard Malacarne, Dave Malin, Mason Martin, Paula Miller, Jimmy Muller, Cliff Nichols, Dave Nycum, Otto Family (Jill Shively-Mason-Cole), Fred Park, Loretta Piper, the Prinkey Family, Winifred Redinger, Bob Reifsteck, Family of Larry Rice, Jenn Rising, Georgie Sandrowicz, Shirley Schulze, Coleen Seagren, Gary Shearer, Shelby Sisco, Bethany Smith, Gladys Smith, Pastor Rob Sparr, Todd Walters, Jane Williams, Dominic Yensi, Holly.

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, Paul Myers, Lois Hoffman 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

zion.lutheran@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.

GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Needed for February operating budget:	\$ 15,833.33
Received in February:	<u>\$ 8,591.40</u>
Amount Still Due for February:	\$ 7,241.93

Does not include the end of the month giving

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 Horner
Steven Kelly
Susan Dahlheimer

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

January 8, 2024

Call to order: 6:28 pm

Present: Rik Wissinger, Kim Balcerak, Vicar Jane Miller, Shirley Horner, Dory Campbell, Becky Slade, Jerry Ruffner, Sue Dickson, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Gail Sechrist, Barry Widdowson.

Absent: Pernell Bowersox, Sheri Bowersox

Devotions: Becky Slade – Becky read a selection from *Every Moment Holy*

Election of Officers:

President- Rik Wissinger

Vice – President – Dory Campbell

Motion made to accept the slate of officers (Shirley/Barry)

Gail Sechrist accepted the request to lead the Administration & Finance Committee

Review of December minutes: Motion to approve December minutes. (Dory/Kim)

Pastors Report-

Pastor has received many positive comments about the Christmas Eve service.

Communications - none

Facebook/Website – no report

December Financial report –

2023 was a good year of giving. We have a budget surplus of \$23,821.16.

Payment for the Kney refurbishment so far \$48,254.97

Motion made to accept the financial report, and move to audit (Shirley/Kim)

Committee Reports

Administration & Finance –

Note that early 2024 giving at the end of 2023 of \$15,100 (see in Budget surplus) will be moved to C&B for 2024. 2023 year ended with a surplus.

There are 2 CDs that will come due in Feb 2024

S&T Bank CD (2/14/2024) - \$75,000 at 4.25%

Mission Endowment Fund CD – (2/20/2024) \$12,961.49 was 2.82%

Rik and Kevin will be looking into current rates and see if there is anything better.

Staff Support – All contracts have been signed. 3.5% increase

Nominating Committee – Dawn Seagren

Evangelism –

Retreat – Dory said she is unable to plan one at this time. She will work at getting a group together to work to plan it. Pastor recommended that we look at a summer time again.

Website – still in progress.

Stewardship – 2024 Current and Benevolence pledge campaign- So far we have received 30 pledges with a commitment of \$105,870.

Parish Education - Gail Sechrist

Sunday school is held every other week. Average about 7 students. Kimberly McCullough subbed one week. With a new family with 3 children attending church last week, it was suggested that a copy of the Sunday School schedule be placed at the back of the church for information to families.

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—cont**Property –**

Vegetable gardens – There was a discussion on whether to allow Calvary Presbyterian church to install raised gardens in our grass area on the edge of our parking lot. This was an idea Calvary proposed to work with Zion to provide fresh produce for their food pantry. Research shows we do own the whole grass strip. Lots of discussion on how and who would maintain this. Calvary had hoped that Zion would participate with them on this project. Discussion followed. There does not seem to be much interest or manpower available to participate in this project. Council voted to reject this project.

The electrician will be in to put the light up for the new sign. The elevator was inspected and passed.

The Eastern Elevator contract has been renewed. Rik was able to negotiate a lower price for the annual maintenance contract.

Rec & Fellowship – The kitchen inspection is coming up in Feb. An additional coffee pot and a small icemaker has been purchased.

Social Ministry –

After a year of sending the donations to area food pantries, Sue would like to do a collection of non food items for the Family Promise - Beyond Shelter store. The collections will run during Lent. Information will be in the next newsletter and a collection box will be placed at the back of the church.

Trinity -3-2-1 – The Lay Internship Committee (Barry Widdowson, Mike Shaw, Sarah Mack) will be meeting Sunday Jan 14. The next 3-2-1 meeting is Feb 20th.

Worship & Music – The next meeting is Jan 16th 7:00 pm, with lots of planning for up to Lent/Easter.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Adjourn: 8 pm

Submitted: Susan Dickson 1/14/24

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 7, 2024

Call to order: 7:14 pm

Present: Gail Sechrist, Sheri Bowersox, Pernell Bowersox, Vicar Jane Miller, Rik Wissinger, Dave Keith, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Sue Dickson, Kevin Huston.

Absent: Kim Balcerak, Ernie Fisher, Dory Campbell

January Minutes – Minutes were reviewed and approved. (Dave/Pernell)

Financial Report -

January Financials – review of the financial reports for January.

The January C&B income was over 2x the monthly budgeted amount. This was from the early 2024 giving donated at the end of 2023 (\$15,100) and was added in 2024. Even without that we were still above our budgeted giving for January. Expenses- Postage was high due to year end mailings (annual giving statements) to the congregation. Gas utility was up above monthly budget. Total expenses were at 5.59% which is below the YTD budget of 8.33%.

Food Pantry – There was a discussion and questions about the Food Pantry line and why it has increase when last year the money was to go to local Food Pantries. Some donations in the last year must have gone into that account before it was decided to distribute them locally. Going forward it had been decided at Jan Council meeting that any Food Pantry donations in 2024 would go to ELCA World Hunger. The Food Pantry account will be available to purchase Aldi food gift cards to give out to those in need when they call the church for help. 12 - \$25 cards were purchased in Jan 2023 and there are now 3 left. Sue will work on getting more.

Motion to approve the financial report and file for audit. (Rik/Kevin)

Updates on 2024 C & B pledge campaign – Kevin has received a few more pledges. The number of pledges are below the total received last year, but the monetary pledge amount is good.

Ongoing Facilities Projects

Kevin showed a summary list of Zion's current project commitments along with what has been paid and the balance due for the projects. It showed that using Budget Surplus, Net operating funds, and Capital Improvement Fund added together would be more than sufficient to complete all projects with an expected balance of \$118,103.

Zamberlin & Co will start bringing the Kney organ back Feb 19.

Old Business-

Lutherlyn donation check (\$5,000) from the Memorial Fund was sent to Lutherlyn.

PA unclaimed property – found that Zion had unclaimed money left from ? utility. It was found on the PA unclaimed property site. \$89 was returned to Zion.

McCreary Tire Stock – This was given as a memorial to Zion many years ago. The company has since changed to Polymer Enterprises. Zion does receive statements and \$600/yr in dividends. The dividends should go into the undesignated Memorial Fund. Motion to do this (Pernell/Dave).

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Gold Leaf found in the safe – this was donated by a congregation member in the past at the start of the ZARP fund drive. Barry Widdowson was able to sell it at a local jewelry firm and the proceeds were added to the Capital Improvement fund.

New Business-

Church heating system – repairs have been made. The room temperature is much more regulated in office area.

Upcoming CD Investments:

Kevin and Rik have investigated where to reinvest 2 CD's that are coming due 2/14 and 2/20. The interest earned from the 12 month S&T CD (2/14/24) – Kevin divided the interest earned and allocated it to each of the 4 accounts contained in that CD. He asked if the committee felt that was a fair method. Committee felt this was the way to do it, will recommend to council.

Kevin presented an example of reinvesting the 2 CD's together at First Summit Bank for a 12 month CD at their current interest rate of 5.05%. He also proposed that some funds from un-designated Net operating funds be added along with the 2 CD's to bring the total investment up to \$100,000. Discussion. Motion made to present to Council that the \$75k CD (2/14/24) be added with the Mission Endowment fund CD (2/20/24) together with more net operating funds for a \$100,000 CD at First Summit Bank. (Kevin/Dave).

Meeting adjourn: 8:10 pm

Submitted by Sue Dickson 2/8/24

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 20, 2024

Members Present: Becky Slade, Jim Lauglin, Kevin Huston, Kathy Huston, Jerry Ruffner, Don Seagren,

Current Projects

1. Ladies room first stall toilet needs to be fixed to stop it from running continuously. Jim will make this his first priority
2. Cove base in new men's room is loose and pulling wall paint away. Jim will address this and repair
3. Wallpaper in other men's room is peeling. We will get a bid to have the wall paper replaced
4. Front entrance door on Sixth street main entrance is not locking. Jim will address with some lubricant to allow door locks to slide easier
5. Received a bid from Ron Lukehart on installing a ceiling in the furnace room. Bid was a per hour cost quote. Committee decided to table this project for now
6. Environmental Pest control will now preform service quarterly instead of monthly since no food storage is on premises
7. New computer was installed in financial room and is working properly
8. Randy George (Pennington Construction) repaired flooring in the furnace room
9. Randy George is also working on installation of cover for new flood light on our new marque sign
10. Items formerly stored in the furnace room (kneelers, old choir robes) need to be donated or thrown out. Awaiting decision from choir and pastor
11. Jim and Jerry will contact a source to dispose of old tree stands, fluorescent light bulbs and other non-useable items taking up space in the furnace room

Current and Potential Projects for 2024

1. Window replacement project continues with final window measurements being taken in July. Installation schedule appears to be in early spring
2. Kney Organ refurbishment continues and is on schedule to be completed in early February.
3. The railing going up the Sixth Street entrance needs to be scraped and re-painted.
4. South Basement Wall in kitchen storage room needs to be water proofed to prevent existing mold. DeBug has provided the low bid for this at \$4,000.00.
5. New sidewalk and steps exiting the pastor's office needs to be completed. This will provide safer access to our new Ross Shaffer Memorial Garden. Cost \$5,500.00 (Cochrane Concrete)
6. Zion's Sixth Street main entrance and side wings leading to the choir loft need to be replastered. This is the final clean up phase after our water leak in this area was repaired. Cost \$ 16,330.00 (Crane Construction)

Available Funds for Projects

Capital Improvement Account Balance: \$120,959.59

Kney Organ Refurbishment Pledges - \$80,395.00

Thrivent Building Maintenance Fund - \$23,247.79

ZARP Account Balance: \$0.00

The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 16, 2024

Members Present: Kathy Huston, Kevin Huston, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Vicar Jane Miller, Sue Dickson, Rik Wissinger, Dr. Christine Clewell, Jan Cikowski

Topics Discussed:

1. The committee discussed decorating the church for Easter. The committee decided that 10:30 AM on Friday March 29th will be decorating day.
2. Jan will order flowers for decorating the church.
3. The committee discussed Maundy Thursday, planning the stripping of the altar.
4. The committee discussed the Easter Vigil and made changes to the bulletin.
5. The committee reviewed the plan for Passion Sunday and corrections were suggested.
6. The committee discussed adding a new Hymn of Peace. It was decided to eliminate the current hymn from the bulletins for 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31 and begin using the new hymn on 4/7 (ACS 1054)
7. The committee reviewed the bulletin for Easter Sunday and made changes.
8. The committee discussed holding services outside during the spring and summer season on Saturday at 5:30. It was decided to begin holding these services on Saturday June 1, 2024 and hold the services every other Saturday until the end of August.
9. The committee discussed have Sunday services outside on July 7, 2024 followed by a congregational picnic.
10. The committee discussed to set a budget for covering the costs for special instrumental music. We will review all expenses for 2023 to use as a benchmark for establishing this budget line item. For fiscal 2025.
11. The committee discussed ordering additional communion elements prior to Easter.
12. The committee received an update on the current repairs to the Kney Organ. We are currently on schedule to have the work completed by Thursday February 29, 2024.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Huston

Easter Flowers—2024

If you would like to provide flowers and candles to decorate Zion’s nave for Easter, please fill out the form below and send it to the Zion office along with your check and envelope number.

All orders MUST be turned into the office no later than Friday, March 15, 2024



Easter Flower and Candle Order Form

_____ Tulips (2 for \$12.00)	Total _____
_____ Lilies (\$10.00)	Total _____
_____ Candles (Candelabra - \$4.00)	Total _____
_____ Candles (Altar Torches - \$10.00)	Total _____
_____ Candles (Aisle—\$4.00)	Total _____
Kelly Jones Scholarship Fund	Total _____
Food Pantry	Total _____
Emergency Help Fund	Total _____

In Memory Of _____

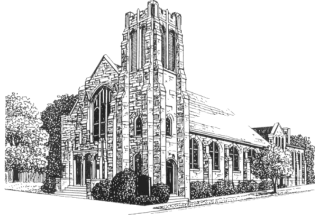
In Honor Of _____

Given by _____ **Env #** _____

March 2024

Date	Lay Reader	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
Mar 2/3	5:30-Jerry Ruffner 9:30-Beth Grafton	Sat-AM Jan Cikowski, PM- Bev Wissinger Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissinger 9:30-Don & Dawn Seagren	5:30-Sue Dickson 9:30-Stephanie Brady	Kim Balcerak
Mar 9/10	5:30-Karen Gresh 9:30-Gail Sechrist	Sat AM Kathy Huston, PM -Shirley Horner Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Gary Ellenberger	5:30-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Rik Wissinger	Kim Balcerak
Mar 16/17	5:30-Josh Widdowson 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	Sat-AM & PM- Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	5:30-Rob Wilt 9:30-Kevin Huston	Kim Balcerak
Mar 23/24 March 28 Maundy Thur	5:30-Claudia Ditch 25-Jenn Rising	Sun-Becky Slade Kathy Huston Thur-Kathy Huston	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Penell Bowersox	5:30-Stephanic Brady 9:30-Jenn Rising Thur-Kim Balcerak	Kim Balcerak
Mar 30/31	Sat Vigil ??????? 9:30-Beth Grafton		5:30-Vigil 9:30-Jim Slade	Vigil—Rob Wilt 9:30-Beth Grafton	
	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>
Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Wednesday evenings	Narcotics Anonymous meetings Sunday evenings				1 Zion office closed	2 5:30 Liturgy
3 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	4	5 6:30 Adm/ Finance Mtg— Special Nite	6 6 Love Wins 7 Mid-Week Lent <u>JIM OFF</u>	7	8 Zion office closed	9 5:30 Liturgy
10 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 Council Mtg	12	13 7 Mid-Week Lent	14	15 Zion office closed	16 5:30 Liturgy
17 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	18 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>	19 7 Property Mtg	20 6 Love Wins 7 Mid-Week Lent	21	22 Zion office closed	23 5:30 Liturgy
24 9:30 Liturgy— Special Service (Organ) Sunday School 3:00—Organ Concert 31 <u>Easter</u> 7 at Luther Chapel 9:30 at Zion	25	26 7 Worship & Music Mtg	27 7 Parish Ed Mtg 7 Mid-Week Lent	28 Newsletter Mailed 7 Maundy Thursday at Zion	29 Zion Office Closed 7 Good Friday at Luther Chapel	30 5:30 Easter Vigil at Zion



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PASTOR/PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Tedd Cogar 724-422-4676 tcogar@iup.edu
 Vicar Jane Miller 814-856-2766 jmiller@uls.edu
 724-525-3260 (texts only)

ZION STAFF

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

Rik Wissinger (Pres)
 Dory Campbell (Vice Pres)
 Sue Dickson (Sec)
 Gail Sechrist (Treas)
 Kim Balcerak (Fin Sec)
 Barry Widdowson
 Becky Slade
 Jerry Ruffner
 Pernell Bowersox
 Sheri Bowersox
 Shirley Horner
 Pastor Tedd Cogar
 Vicar Jane Miller

NEXT NEWSLETTER MAILED — March 28, 2024; Deadline: March 15, 2024

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