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## Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

For us, nothing more needs to be said. Proclaiming this never gets old. Easter has always been a special season for me. Just as with Christmas, God has acted in ways we cannot fully understand. The immense power of God and the unconditional love he has for us is never more apparent than at Christmas and Easter. I am not sure which event is more miraculous. God coming among us as a little baby and living as we do with all our humanity or conquering death and the grave but it does deserve our praise and thanksgiving, not just at Christmas and Easter, but every day of the year.

Sadly, we rarely are able to carry forward the blessings of Easter. The secularization of our religious celebrations quickly focuses our attention on to the next big greeting card holiday. If that is not enough, just as with Christmas, Easter shares the good news of the risen Christ with another American icon. That's right, the Easter Bunny. While arguably less popular the Santa, the Easter Bunny still commands the hearts and sweet tooth of our younger family members. I freely admit that as a young boy, I was swept up in the anticipation of the Easter Bunny's arrival at our home on Henderson Road. My mother, of course, provided positive proof that the "EB" was real and would descend on our home with sweet treats on Easter eve. We were provided with the actual proof of the Easter Bunny's existence by a reliable eyewitness. My mother confirmed without a doubt that the Easter Bunny did indeed exist. When my mother was a child (age not mentioned) she awoke in the middle of the night, stood at the top of the stairs and saw a coat and top hat resting on the first-floor newel post. Proof beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Easter Bunny was in the house leaving some Easter treasures for her to enjoy was visible. How did she know that it was the Easter Bunny? The two holes in the top hat allowing room for bunny ears to protrude left no doubt. When we received this news, we of course were convinced. No further evidence was needed. So, this bit of Easter lore became part our family tradition.

We were always anxious to attend Easter services. After forty days of sacrifice and enduring cheese sandwiches and fish sticks, we were not about to miss out on the Easter celebration. The music, the smell of spring flowers, and a chance to show off our new Easter outfits, (all the gals had Easter bonnets!) added sound, aroma and color to our Easter joy. Now most families celebrated Easter Sunday with Prime Rib or Ham. But not the Huston Clan. My mother continued the Lenten imagery of the sacrificial lamb. So, it was leg of lamb with mint green jelly for us. The fact that lamb was an expensive dinner choice was lost on the Huston children. We were happy to devour our own chocolate lambs but having to eat leg of lamb with green mint jelly instead of the other

options just continued the Lenten season of sacrifice for us. After we were married, Kathy, in an effort to continue this Easter tradition made leg of lamb with mint jelly one Easter. I quickly pointed out that she should put that recipe in the dustbin of Lenten food choices along with fish sticks and cheese sandwiches with sweet relish and stick with ham. The one Easter tradition that my mother did start, and I am proud to say continues into my children's generation was providing butter for the dinner table, formed into a lamb. It was a small gesture on my mother's part but sometimes it's the little details that add pizzazz to the celebration. And we always looked forward to see who would butter their Easter bread with the back end of the lamb.

You may be wondering where the Easter message is among the story of the Easter Bunny and leg of lamb. It is hard, in today's society, to focus on the real importance of Easter. As children and as parents and grandparents we can easily be swept up in the more secular areas of these Christian holidays. I find that attending the Vigil of Easter is helpful in bringing me back to our biblical roots. We begin by hearing the Old Testament lessons from creation and the flood, through Abraham receiving God's covenant and Moses and the rescue from slavery in Egypt. These stories and the reciting of the "Litany of the Saints" provide historical context for our own ongoing relationship with God. They also help, through scripture, to justify and legitimize the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is where Jesus comes from, thus we also inherit the same legacy. We too share a covenant with God. We too share the grace of God with the countless billions of our ancestors in the faith. And what did we do to earn such a magnificent gift? Not a thing. This is God acting. No good deed we could conceive of would be enough to move God to bestow this gift on us. It is God alone who acts. No Easter Bunny or Santa for that matter, could ever provide us with such a gift. The sweet treats are soon consumed and are but a memory, but God's gift of grace endures for all eternity. The Easter message is that God, through the resurrection of Jesus has for us conquered death and the grave. Through grace, we no longer need to wander, the Holy Spirit is there to guide us and we are safe within the community of Christ. Saved by God's grace.

Christ has risen!

He has risen indeed!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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

Our Pascal candle is growing short so Pastor Tedd said it needed to be replaced. Thanks go out to Dale Keller for volunteering to create a new one. He melted old candles down into liquid and with careful planning and new wicking poured a new candle. It turned out amazing! All things are possible through Christ. The new candle will be lit on Saturday at 5:30 for Easter Vigil at Zion.

We will hold Good Friday Service at Luther Chapel at 7:00pm

Easter Vigil at Zion at 5:30

Easter Service at Luther Chapel at 7:00 am with breakfast following. Bring along your favorite breakfast dish. Waffles and sausage and drinks will be provided.

WELCA members are planning a Tea on May 18 2024 at Luther Chapel. Denise Jennings Boyle will be our speaker.. She is a fabulous student of history and will be speaking on local history. The tea will begin at 2:00 with refreshments and will end around 4:00. Hope to see you there.

We are planning a combined service in July with Zion and a combined Service and picnic at Luther Chapel in August. More details to follow.

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

WELCA meetings every Wednesday at 2:00 to 4:00

WELCA monthly meeting and Bible Study the first Saturday of each month at 10:00until 12:00

If anyone needs Home Communion call Sarah Shaffer at 724-541-4868.

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

<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
March 2 and 3	20	33
March 9 and 10	13	24
March 16 and 17	34	35
March 23 and 24 (Palm Sunday)	23	69

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### **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.

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### **Zion's Mission Endowment Fund Continues Restructuring**

At our 2923 Congregational Meeting, it was noted that Zion's Endowment Fund received \$51,000 as part of the Mardel Fish estate distribution. This increased our Endowment Fund to \$156,845.00.

This new contribution to our Endowment Fund was invested in a one-year CD with other funds from the Fish Estate and at maturity will provide a return of \$2,442.90 in earned interest.

In 2024 the Administration and Finance committee and Zion council have been reviewing the Endowment fund's past investment strategy and has made adjustments to provide both a better return on our current investment funds and to shorten the investment commitment with the various financial institutions we are working with. This will allow us the flexibility to move Endowment Funds where our investment returns are more aligned with current market conditions.

With this in mind, Zion's leadership took action to close our account with the Mission Investment Fund which was providing a 2.82% return and bundle that money with other Endowment funds in a one-year CD with 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank at 5.05% interest.

Moving forward we still have to address two CDs that will mature in 2024. A \$19,190 CD will mature in May 2024. This CD is currently earning 2.81% interest. Second, a \$19,000 CD will mature in October 2024. This CD is currently earning 4.5% interest. As they reach maturity, both of these investments will be bundled with other Endowment Fund money at more favorable current interest rates.

During the upcoming year we will continue to discuss fine tuning our investment strategy so that the Endowment Fund is providing the best possible return. This is important because these funds have been traditionally used to support local community programs that serve the needs of our neighbors in need.

## 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**

## Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

### MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species in North America. They are remarkable because they migrate each year, flying from as far as Canada and across the U.S. to congregate and spend their winters in the mountains of central Mexico and coastal California. Over the past two decades, monarch numbers in North America have declined dramatically. As a result, research is being conducted to identify threats to the monarchs and take steps to conserve them throughout their range.

Due to droughts in areas such as Texas and illegal logging and subsistence farming in the Mexican Mountains, these areas are no longer providing the natural nectar sources desperately needed by the monarchs.

#### **What can we do, in our area, to help the monarch population survive and flourish?**

\* Plant milkweed! It is the only plant that monarchs lay their eggs on and the only food the caterpillar will eat. Butterfly gardeners call this a host plant. As vacant lots and fields are lost, the amount of milkweed has decreased. [Milkweed for Monarchs \(nwf.org\)](http://www.nwf.org)

\* Plant nectar plants! Adult monarchs feed on a wide variety of nectar bearing flowers and will visit many kinds in their search for food. When selecting flowers for your yard and gardens, consider planting flowers such as coneflowers, goldenrod, asters, butterfly weed. Your nursery can recommend butterfly-friendly plants. Fall blooming flowers are also important, as monarchs migrating to overwintering grounds require lots of nectar to build fat reserves to support their long-distance flight and sustain them throughout the winter.

\* If you are able, plant milkweed and nectar bearing flowers in fields, vacant lots and highway strips.

\*Reduce/eliminate use of pesticides in your garden.

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](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

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

Follow "Northwestern PA Synod Green Team - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" on Facebook

## 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.














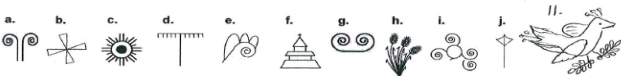
The opportunity to donate to the church for expenses will be provided each week.



### 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"> <li>1. RIBBON or BELT – either around egg or length-wise means "the endless line of eternity"</li> <li>2. DOTS or SMALL CIRCLES – stars, constellations, or Mary's tears.</li> <li>3. LITTLE SIEVE or NET – suggest fishing for men</li> <li>4. LITTLE BASKETS or TRIANGLES – symbolizes Holy Trinity</li> <li>5. LADDERS – suggest prayer</li> <li>6. ROSE or EIGHT POINTED STAR – ancient symbol for Christ, and also the Resurrection of the Savior</li> <li>7. CROSS – the four corners of the world, and also the Resurrection of the Savior</li> <li>8. LEAF or FLOWER – suggest life and growth</li> <li>9. PINE NEEDLES – suggest long life, youth, and health</li> <li>10. FISH – ancient symbol for Christ</li> <li>11. DEER and HORSES – wealth and prosperity</li> <li>11. BIRDS – fertility and fulfillment of wishes</li> <li>12. GRAPEVINE – "Good fruits" of the Christian life</li> <li>13. BUTTERFLY – symbol of the resurrection</li> <li>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</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. </li> <li>2. </li> <li>3. </li> <li>4. </li> <li>5. </li> <li>6. </li> <li>7. </li> <li>8. </li> <li>9. </li> <li>10. </li> <li>11. </li> <li>12. </li> <li>13. </li> <li>14. </li> </ol> |
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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.

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## **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](mailto: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.

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### **GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF MARCH**

Needed for March operating budget:	\$ 15,833.33
Received in March:	<u>\$ 8,347.40</u>
Amount Still Due for March:	\$ 7,486.93

Does not include the end of the month giving

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Dave Nycum  
Dirk Grafton  
Gianna Krznic  
Hannah Rethi  
Jeffrey McCullough  
Kathy Gibbons  
Kay Thorell  
Kristianna Shearer  
Liliana Woomer  
Linda Malin  
Lois Hoffman  
Manon Gill  
Mason Otto  
Nancy Malacarne  
Pernell Bowersox  
Rebecca Gibbons  
Robert Gaylor  
Sally Calvetti  
Sarah Schroth

Every member needs to check Zion's birthday list each month. Have we missed a member of your family? PLEASE call (724-465-5597) or email ([zion.lutheran@comcast.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@comcast.net)) Bev at the Zion office and alert her of the member's name and birth date so we can correct our error. Thank you!

## Zion's Gabriel Kney Organ Returns to Service

On Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, the balcony of Zion's nave was alive with music once again. At our Passion Sunday service, the congregation was treated to a preview of what was to come later in the day as the Kney, for the first time in nearly eleven months, provided accompaniment to our Passion Sunday service. Dr. Christine Clewell sat at the Kney bench and was accompanied by a brass quintet and Zion's own choir as the Kney once again took its rightful place as the mainstay of our worship music program.

But our morning worship was only a prelude to the majestic offerings of hymns and music we heard at the afternoon concert. A large crowd was treated to two hours of music featuring the brass quintet, violin and viola selections, solos from Meghan Carlin and Christopher Jackson Zion's choir. The audience was provided with an opportunity to join in the singing of four hymns. This added a unique community experience to the afternoon's event. But there was no doubt that our very own Gabriel Kney organ commanded center stage during the event.

It was evident to all what we had missed during the restoration and we were reminded of how important it is for us to provide proper care for this valuable instrument as it is such a large part of our worship experience.

We are so grateful to have the talent and leadership of our Director of Music and Organist, Dr. Christine Clewell. Dr. Clewell has enhanced Zion's music program beyond our imagining and we continue to hold her in the highest regard as a valued member of our congregation.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who through their generous gift of talent added so much to our musical experience:

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

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

Violin and viola: Ms. Florrie Marshall

Vocal solos were performed by: Meghan Carlin and Christopher Jackson;

We are also deeply grateful to our Helen Myers Memorial Church Music Scholars 2023; and the members of Zion's own dedicated choir.

We also wish to thank Joe Zamberlan and his staff for their exquisite craftsmanship and impeccable professionalism dedicated to this project.

Thanks also to Zion's Council president Rik Wissinger who took personal charge to shepherd this project to completion and was even able to provide technical support during the project.

Finally, Zion's congregation needs to take a bow for recognizing how important it was for us to proceed with this restoration. Without your willingness to provide financial support for this project, Zion would not have been able to get it done.

Now come and enjoy the fruits of your financial support as the Gabriel Kney Organ, once again, joins us in our weekly worship.

## **MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

**February 12, 2024**

**Call to order:** 6:30 pm

**Present:** Rik Wissinger, Gail Sechrist, Vicar Jane Miller, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Kim Balcerak,, Jerry Ruffner, Sue Dickson, Becky Slade, Shirley Horner

**Absent:** Dory Campbell, Pernel Bowersox, Sheri Bowersox

**Devotions:** Rik- Make us instruments of your love for all during this season of Lent.

**Review of January Minutes:**

Shirley noted that it was learned that the kitchen inspection is not due till April of next year not Feb 2024 as noted in the minutes. Motion to approve minutes. (Shirley/Kim)

**Pastors Report:** Communications: - none

**Facebook/Website** – Now we are able to see the online Facebook attendance.

Pastor shared that the online views have been >100 views each Sunday.

Online - Rik shared that after the Kney is back that work will continue on getting the camera ready.

**January Financial Report** –

Financial report for January was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the report, (Shirley/Jerry) and to file for audit. (Barry/Becky)

### **Committee Reports**

**Administration and Finance** – change meeting date for March to March 5, 6:30 pm.

Admin and Finance committee brought to council recommendations on reinvesting 2 S&T CD's that are maturing this month on 2/14 and 2/20.

Recommendation to council:

Motion 1. Interest earned from the 75K CD maturing on 2/14/24 will be allocated to the 4 accounts contained within it; Steinway Piano Restoration, Youth Gathering Fund, Total Operating Cash, and Endowment Fund. – (Barry/Kim) Motion passed

Motion 2. Plan to reinvest the funds from the 75K S&T CD that matured on 2/14/24 into a new CD. (Shirley/Kim)- Motion passed.

Motion 3. Plan to combine the 75K from the 75K S&T CD that matured on 2/14/24 and the Mission Endowment Fund CD (\$12,961.49) maturing on 2/20/24, and add some of the extra operating cash into a new CD at First Summit Bank, for a total investment of 100K. (Kim/Barry)

**Staff Support** – Rik

A luncheon is being planned at Hoss's on Sunday March 17 at 1:30 pm to celebrate Pastor's 11 year anniversary of his Ordination.

**Nomination Committee** – Don Seagren

**Evangelism** - Dory Campbell

Kim Balcerak has been sending out Baptism cards to the newly baptized, and then yearly to 3 yrs old. She has been doing this for many years, but would like to have someone else do it. Discussion on ideas.

Daniel at Sight and Sound – Planned for July 10, 2024 Discussion on bus size to reserve.

**Stewardship** – Kevin Huston

Kevin has received a few more pledges. The number of pledges (34) are below the total received last year, but the monetary pledge amount is good. Discussion on if we should continue a yearly pledge drive. No decision.

The remaining giving envelopes need handed out. They will be moved to office area.

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

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

Sunday school meets biweekly, but they will teach 2 lessons each session. A handout of the schedule is at the back of the church.

### **Property-** Becky Slade

Furnace room ceiling – Opinion to hold off on repair. This is not something that is needed right away. Jody Dumm Heating has worked on the heating system, and the temperature extremes have been fixed. The cage room has been cleaned out. Requested use of the old Food Pantry room for storage of some items.

Steve Higgins installed a new computer in the old finance room.

Second bid was received for the repair of the steps leading to the greenspace.

### **Rec & Fellowship** – Shirley Horner

Becky spoke about plans for a fundraiser for the Kney Organ. Friday April 19, 2024, 6 pm. \$75/person

A planned sit down dinner, max 30 people. There will be publicity and invitations sent out.

Asking council to allow this to go ahead. Agreed to go ahead.

March 24<sup>th</sup> – A request for cookies and coffee after the Brass and organ concert. Sue offered to do this.

### **Social Ministry** – Sue Dickson

Family Promise Beyond Shelter collection is ongoing. We have received many items so far.

Donations marked “Food Pantry” will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Nextrex collection of plastic bags started Feb 1. 72lbs collected so far.

### **Trinity 3-2-1** – Rik Wissinger

Next meeting is Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Let Rik know if you have anything for the agenda.

Barry noted that the Lay Internship Committee met with Vicar Jane.

### **Worship and Music** – Pastor Tedd

March 24<sup>th</sup> event Palm Sunday – We will be going back to the long palms this year.

Brass and organ concert planned for 3pm. in the afternoon.

### **Old Business** –

Can the Pastor be a nonvoting committee chair? Yes, according to our constitution.

Becky is planning for the 2023 audit for some time in March.

### **New Business** -

Installation of council – This is planned for this weekend Feb 17/18.

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Submitted by Sue Dickson 2/13/24

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 5, 2024**

Call to order: 6:35 pm.

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

Absent: Sheri Bowersox.

Approval of Feb minutes: Approved minutes (Kevin/Kim)

February Financials:

Feb financials had a bookkeeping error of +\$100K. The error was found and Kevin will hand out corrected reports. The current balance, total assets is \$753,644.78, and the correct total undesignated assets is \$184,545.61. Income was down in Feb. Expenses showed a double payment to Synod for Benevolence because it was forgotten last month.

Kevin handed out a summary sheet explaining the purchase of the new \$100K CD purchased in Feb. Sue had a question about the Food Pantry account. There was a \$300 purchase of Aldi gift cards for those in need, and she wondered if that was taken out of the proper account. A check of the general ledger showed it was, but also showed that donations coming in Feb. were placed into Food Pantry when they should go to World Hunger. This will be corrected on future donations in 2024.

Ongoing Facilities Projects:

Window Project: Should be coming in the end of March.

Kney Organ Refurbishment: Organ payments so far total \$73,810.26 and \$56,189.76 remains. Wed and Thurs this week they will be back to finish. The organ should be done for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Online Project: It will not be finished by Easter because work has to be done AFTER the organ is finished.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Submitted by Sue Dickson 3/7/24

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 19, 2024**

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

### **Current Projects**

1. Ladies room first stall toilet has been repaired.
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. This has been repaired.
4. Front entrance door on Sixth street main entrance is not locking. A vendor will be called to adjust the door locking mechanism that seems to be sticking.
5. Termites have been discovered below the Pre-School area. The committee authorized a treatment program to be performed over the Easter holiday weekend at a cost of \$1,340.00.
6. Randy George is also working on installation of cover for new flood light on our new marque sign
7. Items formerly stored in the furnace room (kneelers, old choir robes) need to be donated or thrown out.  
Awaiting decision from choir and pastor

### **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 has been completed. The refurbished organ will debut on Palm Sunday with an afternoon concert to follow.
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. De-Bug has provided the low bid for this at \$4,000.00. The committee will ask council to approve this work to proceed.
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: \$130,610.41

Kney Organ Refurbishment Pledges - \$80,395.00

Thrivent Building Maintenance Fund - \$23,247.79

ZARP Account Balance: \$0.00

**Recommendation for action by Council:** The Property requests that Zion Council approve a bid from D-Bug Waterproofing in the amount of \$4,000.00 (Bid details provided) to address the mold issue on the South basement wall area in the kitchen storage area. Upon approval, this work will be completed after the committee addresses unclogging the drain pipe in the same area that feeds into the Borough storm drain. Funds for this work will be paid from the Property 2024 budget under the "General Maintenance Fund" budget line.

**The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 26, 2024**

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

**Topics Discussed:**

- 1.The committee received and update on the Kney refurbishment:
  - a.There are issues to address. A punch list will be compiled with the details.
- 1.The committee reviewed and proofed the bulletin for Maundy Thursday
- 2.The committee reviewed and proofed the bulletin for the Easter Vigil
  - a.Plans were discussed for the Vigil's outdoor opening
- 1.The committee reviewed and proofed the bulletin for Easter Sunday
- 2.The committee selected hymns for the remaining Sundays after Easter

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday April 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Huston



**EASTER 2024**

**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 honor of:</i>	<i>Children-Chris, Megan, Laura Granddaughter-Jane</i>	<i>Sue Dickson</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Bob &amp; Betty Harlow, Dad, Mom, Brother, Lonnie, Maxine, John</i>	<i>Ann Cogar</i>
<i>In memory of</i>	<i>Mom-Maxine, Dad-Lonnie, Brother-John and Jim</i>	<i>Fay Cogar</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Maxine, Lonnie &amp; John</i>	<i>Pastor Tedd Cogar</i>
<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>Vicar Jane Miller</i>	<i>Pastor Tedd Cogar</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Marion &amp; Ruby Keith</i>	<i>Dave Keith</i>
<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>William Mechling</i>	<i>Darla Mechling</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>Lloyd &amp; Jeanne Miller</i>	<i>Vicar Jane Miller</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 honor of:</i>	<i>Emma &amp; Katie Sechrist</i>	<i>Gail Sechrist</i>
<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>Shirley Kelly &amp; Paul Myers</i>	

**CANDLES**

**Altar Torches**

***In memory of:***

***William Mechling***

***Darla Mechling***

**KELLY JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

***In memory of:***

***William Mechling***

***Darla Mechling***

***In memory of:***

***Suzanne Clark***

***Karen Gresh & Katy Gresh  
Murphy***

**EMERGENCY HELP FUND**

***In memory of:***

***Kenneth C. Houck, Jr***

***Peggy Houck***



April 2024

Date	Lay Reader	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
April 6/7	5:30-Karen Gresh 9:30-Jenn Rising	Sat-AM Jan Cikowski, PM- Shirley Horner Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Don & Dawn Seagren	5:30-Rob Wilt 9:30-Jenn Rising	Kim Balcerak
April 13/14	5:30-Sue Dickson 9:30-Gail Sechrist	Sat AM & PM-Sharon O'Keiff Sun-Sheri Bowersox	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Gary Ellenberger	5:30-Sue Dickson 9:30-Kevin Huston	Kim Balcerak
April 20/21	5:30-Jerry Ruffner 9:30-Beth Grafton	Sat-AM Kathy Huston, PM-Ruth Houser Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissinger 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	5:30-Rik Wissinger 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
April 27/28	5:30-Josh Widdowson 25-Tyson Ellenberger	Sat-AM & PM—Maggie Dugan Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Penell Bowersox	5:30-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Rob Wilt	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/Fin Mtg	4	5 Zion office closed	6 5:30 Liturgy
7 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	8 6:30 Council Mtg	9	10 6 Daniel Study	11	12 Zion office closed	13 5:30 Liturgy
14 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal	15	16 7 Property Mtg	17	18	19 Zion office closed	20 5:30 Liturgy
21 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 & 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	22	23 7 Worship & Music Mtg	24 6 Daniel Study	25 Newsletter Mailed	26 Zion office closed	27 5:30 Liturgy
28	29	30			Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Wednesday evenings	Narcotics Anonymous meetings Sunday evenings



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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 — April 25, 2024: Deadline: April 12, 2024

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