The Tower

February 2017

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

Know Christ! Grow in Christ! Make Christ Known!

For more information about Zion's ministries scan this QR code to visit our website.



What's Happening at Zion

February Focus Statement

"God created me to be a light bearer. I am called and blessed to bring out God's colors in our world."

Calendar Notes

*Zion's **Annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday February 19 at 10:10AM in Piper Hall (no Bibleland or Faith Formation)*

Lent begins March 1 (Ash Wednesday)

- *Ash and Dash is from 6 – 8:30AM*
- *Ash Wednesday Service in Yeager Chapel at noon*
- *Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary at 5 and 7PM*

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

Hello! Thanks for your continued prayers and support. Our members include: Holli Bertram, Kay Davoux, Dale Eckart (chair), Dan McConnell (ex officio), Margie Reynolds, Matt Rudy, Bob Thompson, and Emmeline Weinert. The call committee has deeply appreciated the many conversations and emails we've received from you concerning the process and various candidate options; we wanted to thank you for your continued prayers, support and engagement.

The committee is starting up our activities after taking a break during the season of Advent and the Christmas holidays. As of early January, we have not yet received any new candidate profiles. We have more questions for Pastor Heather Holland (assistant to the bishop) and Pastor Kathy Tulman (our conference dean) about changes to the process for first-call candidates as well as our path forward in the call process. We expect to meet as a committee several times during the seasons of Epiphany and Lent.

We're working on God's timetable, led by His Spirit. We open every meeting with devotions, and close every meeting with prayer. While we know that God will lead us to the right person for Zion, we don't yet know when that process will conclude. We're grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Zion's Outreach to the Hungry and Homeless Takes Center Stage This Month

It's cold out there, isn't it? At our house we are putting on an extra sweater and plugging the crack under the front door. We thank the Lord that we have a place to call home. But what about those who don't? Let's look at some upcoming ways the folks at Zion can help:

- Our congregation is hosting the rotating shelter for the homeless from February 27-March 4. Consider volunteering to spend the night, make a meal or donating supplies *[see article, page 7]*.
- Our pastors, Vicky and Jim, have been picking up people from the Delonis Shelter each Wednesday for our noon worship service, followed by lunch and fellowship *[see* Intern's Corner*, page 3]*. Come and meet, eat and share your life with our guests.
- Keep the donations for local food pantries coming (located in the Welcome Center). Let the baskets overflow with our generosity! And let's make a special effort to support our youth with their Souper Bowl effort on Sunday, February 5 *[see article, page 7].*

There is so much unnecessary suffering in our community and the larger world. Let's find a way to open our hearts to Jesus through the people we welcome and the gifts we share.

—Layale Weinert, Co-Coordinator, Mission Core Ministry

Worship Core Ministry

Calling All Musicians!

It's a great time to join a music ensemble at Zion!

- **The Rings of the Lord (Handbells)** meets weekly on Thursdays from 6-7:30PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary.
- **Chancel Choir** meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30-9PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome singers ages high school through adult.

Singers and instrumentalists are also encouraged to provide Special Music throughout our weekly and festival worship services. If you are interested in sharing your music, please email Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

Zion Singers

Zion Singers is a group of singers with daytime availability who come together once a month (usually the 4th Friday of each month) to prepare and present a program of sacred, fun, and seasonal songs to residents at a local nursing care, assisted living, or hospice care facility. All are welcome to participate! Our next date is Friday, February 24th at Evangelical Homes of Saline. Our rehearsal will be at 12:30PM in Music Room 1 on Level B1, and the performance will be at Evangelical Homes of Saline at 2PM.

Wittenberg University Choir Concert—Host Families Needed

Zion Lutheran will be hosting the Wittenberg University choir during their 2017 choir tour. They will present a concert at Zion on Sunday, March 5 at 7PM. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be collected for the choir. We are in need of host families for the choir members! Host families will provide overnight housing (students are in pairs of two), breakfast, and return choir members to Zion the next morning (March 6). If you are interested in hosting two or more students, please contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

February Lectionary

Feb 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16], Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 12	Deuteronomy 30:15:20, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37
Feb 19	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
Feb 26	Exodus 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Zion Concert Series

Saturday, Feb. 11, 4PM - Eastern Michigan University Choir*
Sunday, Apr. 2, 4PM - Measure for Measure**
* Free-will offering will be accepted **Ticketed event

Luther Hymn Festival

Sunday, February 26th at 4PM—Zion Sanctuary

Join us for a hymn festival celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation through the singing of hymns and reading of scripture. The festival will focus on the five sola phrases of the Protestant Reformation: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Solus Christus (Christ Alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone). Hymns composed by Martin Luther will be included in the program. The hymn festival is open to the congregation and community. Come sing and celebrate our reformation heritage and faith!

Celebrate Music at Zion

On Sunday, March 26th at 4PM in the Zion sanctuary, we will have a concert celebrating our musicians and the music ministry here at Zion! All ages are invited to share their musical talents. It can be something that you have performed at a Sunday morning service, or something you are working on in your private music lessons. Solos and ensembles are encouraged to participate. Chancel Choir, The Rings of the Lord, Zion Singers, Liberty Street Praise Band, and the Zion Choral Scholars will also present music selections. The concert is open to the public, so invite family and friends to join in the celebration! If you are interested in performing or have questions, please contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

Welcome Core Ministry

Ushers and Greeters Needed!

Do you like to greet people? Help them find a seat? Show them our beautiful church? Well then we have a spot for you! All three of our services are in need of ushers: 8:00, 9:00 and 11:11. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the church office, and Diane (drinehart@zlc-aa.org) will be happy to get you in contact with the lead usher for the individual services. Thank you for your interest in helping us out!! See you in the pews!

The Welcome Committee is also looking for greeters. Please contact Karin Salamin (734-995-0565) for more information.

From Pastor Jim

Using Time Intentionally

February 2017 begins my third year as senior pastor of Zion. For those who may be wondering, it will be day 731. During the last 24 months we have laughed together when I would announce how many days I have been your pastor. The reason I started counting the days was to be intentional with time. It helped to give me a reference point from where I had come and where we were going. I do that with other things too, like this year my wife Barbara and I celebrated our thirty-third wedding anniversary—that would be 12,054 days we have been together. Psalm 90:12 tell us that we should number our days, *"So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."* Job 8:9 says, *"for we are but of yesterday, and we know nothing, for our days on earth are but a shadow."*

One thing I hear again and again is that there are never enough days in our lives. No matter how long we live, we always want more time. We want more time with family, more time to do the things we love, and more time to get ahead. But as much as we want more time, it is the one thing that we can't change. We all have 24 hours or 1440 minutes every day. How we use this time is up to us.

We all have a lot of intentions to use our time wisely. They are good intentions. But they usually remain only intentions. How will this year be different? How will your intentions become something more than a wish to become actions that affect your time? This February 19, Zion will gather at our annual congregational meeting to reflect on where we have come and what we have accomplished. Even more important, we will begin to lay out where we are going in the months to come and the work that still needs to be done. I invite you join us at 10:10AM in Piper Hall. All Faith Formation classes have been cancelled for this important meeting.

We gather for worship on the first day of the week, so that we can be fed and nourished to be the people of God all week long. In worship God receives our praise and prayers as simple offerings, and shapes our intentions into actions. In the gathering of God's people, God reminds us that it is in faith our days will be blessed. This February the gospel lessons will focus on Jesus's sermon on the mountain. Here Jesus will challenge us to be salt and light in the world. We will be called to choose life by loving and obeying God. We are called to respond to evil with love and forgiveness. Then just before we enter the season of Lent we are given a vision of Jesus' glory in the Transfiguration.

May we all be intentional with the time God has given us, to do the work that God has given us to do. The prophet Micah reminds us of what God desires; "*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Micah 6:8

Intern's Corner



Q: Tell us about a ministry at Zion that is close to your heart.

A: Zion is doing many amazing things and there are several ministries that really sing to my soul. However, one of the newer ones that I really enjoy is our Wednesday Ministry Day.

When I was in high school, each year there was a three-day period between semesters where students were allowed to take random fun classes. Some were health-oriented, some were learning-oriented, but I always chose service-oriented. I would go to serve and sleep at a homeless shelter in Chicago. A deep passion for this population formed within me and continues today. So, one of the first things I did when I got to Zion was to go meet some new friends in the homeless community.

Things have evolved over the past six months and now every Wednesday, I take the church van over to the Delonis Center at around 11:15AM, pick up any of my friends that would like to come back to church, then at noon we attend chapel together along with the staff and many members of the Zion family. After the service, we all enjoy a meal and great conversation with one another and eventually I take my new pals back to the shelter. Each week we try to have a little gift (socks, trail mix, a hygiene kit, etc.) available and in December we were even able to secure enough donations to provide Christmas presents and a delicious feast of steak, chicken and shrimp. Our friends were overwhelmed and overjoyed!

At first it started with one man participating, another week we had 16. It's hard to tell how many friends will join us each week but those who need to hear the gospel always appear. And, I love to see our Zion family embracing these friends, worshipping together, sitting with one another for lunch, and engaging in deep conversations. It's amazing. While I was away at seminary, several people stepped up to make sure the Wednesday Ministry continued. Isn't that great? Different people have made meals for us. Others have given us Thrivent Action Event Funds. There are many ways for the Zion community to get involved and I invite everybody to join us in the fun! Maybe your soul will sing too! ☺

Trip to Uganda

In February, Pastoral Intern Vicky Lovell and her husband Erik are traveling to Uganda as part of her internship program here at Zion. Dan McConnell (Zion's Council President) and Pastor Jim are inviting the members of Zion to financially support Vicky and Erik's trip. Donations can be made with a note in the memo line (Uganda Trip). Thank you for supporting this special ministry that is touching lives around the world.

Congregation Council

December 20, 2016—Highlights

Financial Report

- Cash—Available cash at the end of November was $141,750. Cash in the operations account as of 12/16/16 is approximately $133,500. We currently have sufficient cash on hand to last the next several months.
- Income—For the month of November contributions were $62,493, which was $15,934 less than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of $76,858 in November last year. YTD, contributions are $768,082. This compares to $755,331 YTD at the end of November last year. This is $2,346 less than budgeted, but $12,751 more than YTD last year.
- Expenses—Total spending was $12,223 under budget for the month. All ministries except two are under budget YTD. Total spending is $142,419 under budget YTD.
- YTD Attendance and Offering

	2016	*2015*	*Variance*
Attendance (YTD) *	14,051	15,217	(1,166)
-Including Bibleland	16,385	17,755	(1,370)
Offering (YTD)	$768,082	$755,331	$12,751
Offering per Person	$54.66	$49.64	$5.03

** There were 44 Sundays through end of October in 2016 and 43 Sundays in 2015*

Endowment Committee Mission Fund

Marcus Hunt, Endowment Committee, joined the meeting for this discussion. The Endowment Committee would like some input from Council about the Endowment Mission fund's creation and use. This fund was created with the amended February 28, 2016 Zion Constitution, as was the Endowment Committee (replacing the former "Endowment Board"), with the purpose of supporting missions and outreach above and beyond programs supported through regular offerings. There is no money in this fund as of yet. It would be funded by donations given specifically for this purpose.

Council discussed options regarding how this fund would operate and how much it should have in it before distributions are made. For example, should Zion let this account grow until a particular level is reached prior to any distributions, or should this fund distribute immediately even if distributions were small (as a way of raising awareness and drawing more contributions). Council discussed and recommended using the Stewardship for All Seasons campaign in 2017 to draw contributions into the Endowment Mission fund and to the Endowment in general.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for February 19, at the Faith Formation hour (10:10). Elections are on the agenda.

Nominating Committee

According to the Constitution, we need a Nominating Committee, to be comprised of two members of Council and two members from the congregation at large. Sharon and Vickie agreed to be part of the nominating committee.

A number of positions will be open, including Council and the IT, Endowment, and Audit Committees. Regarding Council positions, Connie and Christine's terms are up, and Sharon, Dan, and Gordon need to be elected (all were appointed).

Council members need to look at the job descriptions and liaison role descriptions on the Google Drive to help the Nominating Committee describe the commitment for congregation members who may be interested.

Buildings and Grounds - Roof

B&G hired a consultant to describe the maintenance needed for the roof, to establish what would need to be done and then that description could be used to get bids. Zion has a bill for the services rendered. Council approved payment of $3645.05 from the capital reserve account. Next steps: Council will ask B&G to come to the next meeting to discuss the roof and what they have learned.

Email Approval of Staff Bonuses

A one-time bonus for clergy, full time, and part time staff was recommended by the Personnel Committee and approved by e-mail vote of Council. Dan will write a thank-you note to go along with it.

Youth Discipleship and Family Coordinator Position

Four candidates were of interest, three were interviewed and one was a no-show. The person that the Personnel Committee wanted to hire declined. After Christmas, the committee will return to the process.

Pastor Debner's Evaluation

This evaluation was completed a week ago by Dan, Vickie, and Laura from Council, and Diane Hunt and Frode Maaseidvaag of the Personnel Committee. Council discussed Pastor Jim's tenure to date and plans for the future.

Constitution Update

Constitutional review is still in progress and is nearing completion. It is necessary to include elements required by the ELCA. The draft revised constitution will be shared with Council first, and then with the congregation in February.

Job descriptions

Bob will resend a draft version of the At-Large Council position to Council to read and comment upon.

Samaritan Counseling

Lynne Lande will be working with Samaritan Counseling of Farmington Hills, and will continue to use the office space at Zion. She thanked Council for allowing her to continue to see clients at Zion.

Young Discipleship

ZION VBS 2017

Mark your Calendars: June 19 – June 23

Family Night
Thursday June 22nd



VBS Celebration Service
Sunday June 25th

Director Jessica Rudy -- AAZionVBS@gmail.com

Adult Discipleship

Adult Classes—February 2017

Feb 5, 12, 26, March 5—Video series on Luther and the Reformation

This video series explores the social, political and religious forces leading to the Reformation and Luther's role in shaping the challenge against Rome and contemporary religious practices and beliefs. Pastor Walt Schmidt, Discussion leader; 10:10-11AM Piper Hall.

Feb 5- *From Night to Dawn:* Historical forces leading to the Reformation were economic, political, cultural, and intellectual.

Feb 12- *From Bondage to Freedom:* How does a human become right with God? Luther agonized over the idea that he needed to earn his way to God; then he discovered God's love as a free gift.

Feb 26- *From Scholar to Provocateur:* Freed of the need to earn salvation, Luther studied, preached, lectured and wrote prodigiously.

Feb 5, 12, 26—The Bible for Busy People

We often read bits and pieces of the Bible but seldom have the time to put the whole story together and see the big picture. In three Faith Formation sessions, February 5, 12, 26. We will watch a DVD by Dr. Harry Wendt who teaches a panoramic view of the Testaments Old and New. The class will explore a Biblical timeline, the relevance of the Bible for today's life as well as questions and answers. Pr. Jim Debner, Class leader; 10:10-11AM Classroom C.

Zion Reads *Luther*

Martin Marty's book, *Luther,* has been chosen as Zion's common read in 2017 on the topic of Luther.

That fall day when Martin Luther tacked a challenge on the door of his local church, he was not doing a totally new thing, but what he wrote was new and led to a revolution in Christendom. Marty's book can be purchased now through March, when Pastor Debner will lead discussions based on the book. The cost of the book is $10 and is available in the Welcome Center.

The Book of Romans: Biblical Roots of the Reformation

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, as historians look at Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany as the beginning of that Reformation. In keeping with the Reformation theme, our Thursday afternoon Bible Study for Winter 2017 will be: *The Book of Romans: Biblical Roots of the Reformation.*

Why Romans? Luther's emphasis was on the authority of God's word and Romans had a great impact on Luther's understanding of God's love and how we are saved. In addition, Romans is often referred to as the "Queen of Epistles," as most Biblical scholars consider it to be Paul's most influential book.

Our classes for the Winter begin February 9 and run through April 6, the week before Holy Week. We meet in the upstairs Omega Room, Thursdays, 1:30—3PM. These sessions will be led by Pastor Walter Schmidt. Please join us!

Adult Discipleship (cont.)

Men's Retreat - February 10-12, 2017
Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan

Gentlemen! It is time once again to add the Washtenaw Men's Retreat to your calendar. Pastor Walt Schmidt will be our presenter in place of Ron Delph, who had an important family obligation (a good one) arise. The topic for the 2017 retreat will be *Reformations in Christian History and Today.* Tentatively, the sessions will be:

- Friday evening, 8—9:30PM: The social environment at the time of the Reformation and how the Reformation fit in.
- Saturday morning session 1, 9—10AM: Martin Luther's role in the Reformation (hint: it was a big role).
- Saturday morning session 2, 10:15—11:15AM: Introduction to the 95 Theses.
- Saturday afternoon, 1:30—2:30PM: Other "reformations" through Christian history.
- Saturday evening (table discussion activity), 7—9PM: If we were going to post Theses today, which of the 95 would we keep, and what new ones would we include?
- Sunday morning, 9AM: Lay worship service (or pastor-led) and head home.

In addition to the sessions, there will be ample time for reflection, relaxation, conversation, prayer, walking the labyrinth, and browsing the wonderful Weber Center Bookshop.

The retreat as usual will be held at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, Friday evening through Sunday mid-morning. The cost for a single room for 2 nights and 4 meals is $175; if you are unable to afford the full amount, partial and full scholarships are available. Sign up at the Welcome Desk at Zion, or by contacting this year's coordinator Steve Johgart, (stevej1@mac.com) or 734-904-4936. Please join us! God loves you, and so do we.

The Daniel Plan Small Group Meeting

Join us on Thursdays from 6:45 to 7:30PM in classroom A as we explore Rick Warren's book, *The Daniel Plan*. This video study focuses on an abundance of healthy choices, giving you the encouragement and inspiration needed to make changes in your life. Our small group this January covered the topics of Faith, Food and Fitness. We will be exploring Focus, Friends and Living the Lifestyle on February 2, 9 and 16. Our last video will be Feb. 16. "God wants to give you the encouragement, the strength, and the hope to reach your goal. Depend on him one step at a time. Run to him when you need strength." –from *The Daniel Plan.*

Thank You and Congratulations

Zion Endowment Committee wishes to thank Lois Schultz and Bill Malila for their charitable donations to the Zion Endowment. Your generosity will further the Lord's work now and into the future.

Samaritas News

Senior Living Programs

Samaritas, which is the new name for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, is one of our best ways of serving people with the love of Christ. Their Senior Living programs include senior residences in Traverse City, Cadillac, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Bloomfield Hills as well as senior care facilities in Cadillac, Saginaw and Grand Rapids. Last year, the facilities provided short-term skilled nursing and convalescent and rehabilitation care for 959 persons. Another 563 people needing independent/assisted living, catered living and memory care programs were also served at these facilities. They also operate affordable living facilities in Adrian, Allegan, Alpena, Ann Arbor, Cheboygan, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Monroe, Mount Pleasant, Muskegon, Montague, Onaway, Rochester Hills and Whitehall. If you want to volunteer at any of these, you can stop by any of the Samaritas offices or contact Anna Romund at aromu@samaritas.org. If you want to donate, you can send checks to Samaritas, P.O. Box 674855, Detroit, MI 48267-4855 or phone 800-421-3062.

Mission Core Ministry

Giving Fair News

Thank you Zion! You have again shown your generous hearts. $9,000 was donated to Samaritas to fund the basic monthly expenses for 4 refugee families. This means that these families will receive rent, utilities, food, clothing and more for a month. ELCA Good Gifts received $4,397.56 (including $154.36 collected in red barn banks from Bibleland children) for 2 water wells. As many as 1000 families will now have safe water. Women and children who spent several hours each day fetching water can reallocate their time to school, work, and family. An additional $3000 worth of gifts (some of which were ordered directly from home) were given to fund: 2 Family Farms, 6 Pigs, 4 Goats, 1 Sheep, 5 Sets of Chicks, 5 Sets of Honey Bees, 1 Share of a Cow, 1 Vaccinations for a Child, 1 Set of Mosquito Nets, 1 Microloan for a Woman, 3 School Fees and Uniforms for Girls, 1 School Supplies for a Child, and a generous donation towards fighting hunger. The ELCA Good Gift Total was $7,382.56, and the Samaritas and ELCA Good Gifts grand total was $16,392.56. These gifts will change peoples' lives!

Faith and Food Garden: 2016 Redux and 2017 Planning

Zion's Faith and Food Garden had a record harvest in growing season 2016, producing just over 1,800 lbs of produce for the area's needy, the equivalent of 7,200 quarter-pound portions of fresh, organic vegetables and fruits! 2016 was the Zion garden's fifth year of production. The Faith and Food garden program is part of a larger network of congregational gardens in Washtenaw County, coordinated by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and Food Gatherers.

Produce harvested from Zion's garden included tomatoes, green beans, cantaloupe, watermelon, squash, cabbage, kale, collards and beets. According to Layale Weinert, Zion garden co-coordinator, "The harvest was a true gift from God. Seeing God's ongoing creation up close and personal, used to feed the most vulnerable in our community, is an experience of inspiration and gratitude that I find unmatched."

One difficulty this past year was fewer volunteers to sustain the garden over the long April-October growing season. If you, your family or your small group are willing to help out for one or two weeks this coming year, please contact Bryan Weinert at bryancweinert@gmail.com. We could sure use the help, and we think this ministry is something special, honoring God, creation and our neighbors, all while enjoying the great outdoors and serving as witnesses to the mission of our congregation to near-by neighbors.

Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed

For the homeless, turning up the heat on these cold, frigid nights isn't an option. For over 25 years, Zion has participated in the Rotating Homeless Shelter. This program places 25 adult men in churches around the Ann Arbor area during the cold winter months. This year we will be hosting **Monday, February 27th through Sunday, March 6th.**

What do we provide? We provide a warm, safe place for our guests to get a good nights sleep and a chance to have some much wanted and appreciated human contact without judgement. And…a good, hot meal.

How can you help?

- We are in need of overnight volunteers. We need 2 people each evening to split up the shifts.
- Each morning, guests are either transported to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for breakfast or back to the Delonis Center. This is usually one of the overnight volunteers, but can also be someone else if this fits better with what you are able to help with.
- Food (hot meal when they arrive, snacks for later in the evening)
- Services – If you have a service you think they might enjoy, please consider volunteering. In the past we've offered haircuts, tax assistance, etc.
- Donations of the following items are highly appreciated: gently used coats, hats, gloves, warm long sleeved shirts, long underwear, warm socks, toothpaste/brushes/dental floss, deodorant, razors and shave cream, bar soap, etc. Items can be dropped off in the office and Sundays in the Welcome Center.

If you are able to assist in any of these ways, please contact Laura Girbach (734-645-1522; lgirbach@comcast.net). Sign up sheets will be available in the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. Sign up sheets will be in the office during the week. With everyone's hectic schedules it is difficult to find ways to volunteer, however, these men really need our support. Please reach deep and let us know how you can help.

Soup-er Super Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 5 is Super Bowl Sunday! For many of us, it's a party day with lots of extra treats to eat. A time for feasting! And also a good time to remember people with food insecurity. In response, our high school youth will be taking up an extra collection that Sunday morning to support the homeless shelter, which will be rotating to Zion later in the month. Please be generous with your contribution, and also bring in some canned soup or other goods to supplement the pantries that we serve. Thanks for your support.

Warm Hearts / No Empty Hands

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to church. Food is given to Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Hope Clinic. If you have given food through school, work, or food drives, thank you!

Mission Core Ministry (cont.)

Red Cross Blood Drive

On Monday, February 13, 2017, Zion will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 1:00—6:45PM in the Gathering Room. Volunteer blood donors are a vital part of America's health care system. There is a constant demand for blood, as it is perishable and must be used within 35 - 42 days.

There are three ways to make an appointment:

1. Go online to www.redcrossblood.org with Zion's sponsor code, *zionlutheran*.
2. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center on Sundays.
3. To schedule an appointment through email, please email Mary Pearson at marpear@gmail.com, indicating your preferred time (appointments are available on the quarter-hour from 1:00—6:45PM). You will receive a confirming email and we will do our best to reserve the time that is most convenient for you.

Please Note: The February blood drive will be on the 2nd Floor in the Gathering Room.

Guest Preacher Feb 12—Pr. John Cummings

Zion again welcomes Pr. John Cummings as our guest preacher at all three services on Sunday February 12. Pr. John and his wife and partner in ministry Meghan, have been leading the ELCA faith community Grace in Action in Southwest Detroit for over five years. Pr. John will bring news, updates and inspiration as we learn more about activities at Grace in Action and explore further opportunities for mutual ministry.

Living Hope Ministries—New Classrooms Update



This is a recent picture from our partners in ministry at Living Hope - Haiti. Zion and the Korean Baptist Church that meets in the Chapel got this project started with a $4,000+ gift in Nov 2016. These new classrooms will allow several primary school classes to move out of the Trade School building and into their own dedicated classrooms. This is a true blessing for Living Hope. Thank you for your generous support. You are truly making a difference in allowing most of these students to be first generation educated people of Haiti.

- Mark Gunderson

March Emphasis—Circles Washtenaw County

Circles is a unique program that is based on the premise that we do a terrible job of having friendships across socio-economic lines in this country. Knowing that relationships matter and connections matter, the Circles program matches a person in poverty with at least three middle or upper income partners for at least 18 months to form a relationship. The goal of Circles is to break the cycle of generational poverty for local families by creating these circles of support and connections with people who are committed to real change in our community. Long-time Zion partner Friends In Deed is taking the lead in kicking off a Circles program here in Washtenaw County. Mission Core Ministry will be working with Circles Washtenaw County during the month of March to provide you with more details about how Circles works and how you can be involved.

He

Take his hand
And walk with him,

For he will never
Leave your side,
Even in the dark places,
For he has been there
Before you.

And he will be with you
On the mountain tops as well,
To see the morning sunrise
And the gift of the beautiful creation
That surrounds you.

And the tears he has shed
He has shed for you.
And they will nourish
The seeds of comfort and hope
Planted deep within your heart.

For his love is with you,
Wherever you are forever!

- Elida Malila

Member Caring Ministry

Women's Activity Day

This is an open invitation for all "crafty" women to attend Activity Day in Piper Hall on February 9 from 9AM—3PM. We will be working on Lutheran World Relief Quilts and other gifts, lead by Mary Lou Bancroft.

Circled in God's Love and Seeking Comfort

March 14th is Pie Day (pi: 3.14...) and we will be focusing on the filling in both sweet & savory pies. God tells us it is what is inside that matters.

Women and girls can bring recipes to share down in Piper Hall at 5:30PM. We will enjoy a chicken pot pie together and more. Come, even if you missed the pie crust event in January.

Please leave a name and phone number at the sign-in sheet located in the office and on the Welcome desks. Women and girls are encouraged to bring canned chicken to leave for the No Empty Hands food pantry. This event will be cancelled if weather is icy or travel not safe. For more information contact Barbara Debner (babdebner@gmail.com)

February and March Chick Flicks

Women and girls of all ages are invited to the first Pancake & Pajamas Chick Flick in the Gathering space on Saturday February 4, from 11AM until the last lady leaves.

We are planning to watch one episode of *Seventh Heaven*, one of *Mary Tyler Moore*, and one of *Andy Griffith*. These are great for the young.

Popcorn will come out in the afternoon. (The younger girls can leave.) We will then experience two more PG films: *Heaven is for Real,* and *Miracles From Heaven* starring Jennifer Garner. They both deal with family crisis. Parents are encouraged to read up on these dramas before watching with young girls.

Wear comfy jammies, bring your blanket and a chair that is fun to settle into for a few fun movies. A pot of chili will also help the afternoon miracle marathon feel warm. We are asking for a $4 per person payment at the Gathering Place door to cover the cost of paper products, food and juice.

We are also seeking donations of clean new large or extra large undershirts for homeless men.

On March 18th we will have a double feature Chick Flick beginning at 4:30PM with the movie *Courageous,* followed by *Fireproof* (around 6:30PM). Women are encouraged to bring a comfortable chair and a beverage if they don't want water. Popcorn and raw veggies will be provided.

Problems?

Problems, they are everywhere-

But keep them off your back.

Smile a lot, sing a song – stay on the right track.

Think good thoughts- look around there is beauty everywhere.

Know that you are lucky because you are in God's care.

A final thought- start your day and end it with a prayer.

- LaFern Haas

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5:17-20

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry Update

On December 10, I finished my second class as part of the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA.

The first class of 2017 is "Christian Discipleship," taught by Pastor Christine Thompson of Emmanuel Lutheran in Ypsilanti. It's a relief to have a shorter commute! We're reading books by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Dr. Martin Luther King, and it should be very engaging. Each class meets for five weeks; the next class on the Old Testament will begin in February.

As each LLM student nears the end of her/his training, the student plans an internship, under the direction of a pastor in the Southeast Michigan Synod. The internship should last from 6-12 months, and longer is considered better. This internship gives the lay minister a chance to serve in ministry in a manner that uses her/his talents and gifts, while meeting the needs of God's people. Some LLMs have preached and served in their own congregations; some have started specific ministries, including quilting, visitation in nursing homes, and prison outreach. I'm not sure yet what I will do for my internship. I have a talent and passion for chancel dramas, and I have taught catechism classes for both youth and adults. Some of the congregations which need additional pastoral support are within our county, so I may be able to serve one of them. Fortunately, I have time for the Holy Spirit to help me discern where and how to conduct my internship.

Our synod recognized a need for providing additional training for lay people who want to serve in a larger role in their congregation or neighboring congregations. The Lay Ministry Academy is a series of courses taught by SEMI Synod pastors, which are open to all members of congregations in the synod. The list of courses and descriptions are listed on the LLM website http://www.semisynod.com/leaders/licensed-lay-ministry, which is part of the synod website. The coursework is inspired by the training given to lay rostered leaders (Deacons) in the larger ELCA, and which is described on their web site http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Lay-Rostered-Leaders. People who are not part of the formal LLM program, but simply want to learn more, are welcome to register for classes.

- Dale Eckart

World Peace Conference

Community members are invited to register for the 2017 World Peace Conference which will occur March 31 - April 1 at the University of Michigan. This two-day annual conference is open to the public, was last held in in California, and will focus on how to promote peace, mediate conflict, and empower community leaders. Issues related to poverty, hunger, health, violence prevention, the roles of faith-based organizations and media in peace-making, human rights preservation, peace and conflict resolution, and how best to involve youth, are among the topics that will be discussed.

Confirmed speakers for the 2017 conference include Peace Corp Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet; Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams; Senior Advisor to the U.N. Jeffrey Sachs; Emmy Award-winning journalist Penny LeGate; Cass Community United Methodist Church Pastor Faith Fowler; Beth Israel Congregation Rabbi Robert Dobrusin; Islamic Organization of North America Imam Steve Mustapha Elturk; Interfaith Round Table Director Rev. George Lambrides; and numerous other faith leaders, university faculty, scholars, authors, and media professionals from around the world.

The registration fee is $150 and includes lunch both days. More information about the conference, speakers, program and location is available on the conference website http://2017peaceconference.org/ or by contacting Loren Rullman at ljrullman@yahoo.com.

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Matthew 5:38-48

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-Week Worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, February 2
7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
12:30 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:45 PM The Daniel Plan/Classroom C
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 3
12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Al-Anon Special Meeting/The Gathering

Saturday, February 4
11:00 AM Check Flick Night/The Gathering

Sunday, February 5
7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship Understanding the Bible/Classroom A
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship-Luther Video/Piper Hall
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
10:10 AM C+C (High School Caffeine & Christ)/ Omega Room
10:10 AM Catechism-6th Grade/Youth Room
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, February 6
12:30 PM Monday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Washtenaw Refugee Meeting/The Gathering
6:45 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, February 7
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
5:30 PM Personnel Committee Meeting/Church Office
7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Omega Room
7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, February 8
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, February 9
9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
1:30 PM Mid-week bible study/Omega Room
4:00 PM Compassionate Communication/Piper Hall
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:45 PM The Daniel Plan/Classroom C
7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 10
8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/Piper Hall
4:00 PM Eastern Michigan Choir Practice/Sanctuary
4:00 PM Scrapbooking/The Gathering

Saturday, February 11
8:00 AM Compassionate Communication/Piper Hall
8:00 AM Scrapbooking/The Gathering
2:00 PM Eastern Michigan Concert/Sanctuary

Sunday, February 12
7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship Understanding the Bible/Classroom A
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship-Luther Video/Piper Hall
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
10:10 AM C+C (High School Caffeine & Christ)/ Omega Room
10:10 AM JAM (Middle school Jesus & Me)/Youth Room
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Grace Place/Main Kitchen

Monday, February 13
6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
11:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive/The Gathering
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
6:45 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, February 14
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 15
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, February 16
7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
11:11 AM International Neighbors/Piper Hall
1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
1:30 PM Mid-week bible study/Omega Room
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:45 PM The Daniel Plan/Classroom C
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 17

Saturday, February 18

Sunday, February 19
7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING/Piper Hall
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, February 20
6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Reconciling in Christ/Omega Room
6:45 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, February 21
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Wednesday, February 22
10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, February 23
7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
1:30 PM Mid-week bible study/Omega Room
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 24
12:30 PM Zion Singers Rehearsal/Music Room #1
2:00 PM Zion Singers/Off Site
4:00 PM Youth leave for Spring Hill

Saturday, February 25

Sunday, February 26
7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship-Understanding the Bible/Classroom A
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship-Luther video/Piper Hall
10:10 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
10:10 AM C+C (High School Caffeine & Christ)/ Omega Room
10:10 AM Catechism-All Grades/Youth Room
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
1:30 PM Luther Hymn Festival/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, February 27
6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall
6:45 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, February 28
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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January Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS:
WEDDINGS:
FUNERALS: *Art Johnson*
NEW MEMBERS:

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

President:	Dan McConnell (dmcconnell@zlc-aa.org)
Vice-Pres:	Vickie Matthews (vmatthews@zlc-aa.org)
Secretary:	Laura Berry (lberry@zlc-aa.org)
Treasurer:	Bob Bertrand (bbertrand@zlc-aa.org)
At Large:	Christine Karshin (ckarshin@zlc-aa.org)
	Gordon Loll (gloll@zlc-aa.org)
	Connie McComb (cmccomb@zlc-aa.org)
	Bob Thompson (rcthompson@zlc-aa.org)
	Sharon VanRiper (svanriper@zlc-aa.org)
	Mark Warwashana (mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org)

Core Ministries

Worship:	Dale Eckart
Welcome:	Karen Salamin, Joanne Dence
Adult Discipleship:	Sonja Page, Peter Bertocci
Young Discipleship:	Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya
Caring:	Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach
Missions:	Mark Gunderson, Layale Weinert

Support Ministries

Personnel:	Diane Hunt, Dave Werner
Building & Grounds:	Jim Love, Bill Lehmann
Financial Stewardship:	Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT:	Ray Vanderbok, Marcus Hunt
Endowment:	Marcus Hunt, Leif Fry

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	*Vacant*
Pastoral Intern	Vicky Lovell
Director, Adult Discipleship	*Vacant*
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	*Vacant*
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
VBS Coordinator	Jessica Rudy
Director of Choirs & Special Music	Natalie Downs
Organist	Elgin Clingaman
Contemporary Worship Leader	Alison Hendricks
Sound Operator	Tyler Dence
Worship Media Coordinator	Eddie VanRiper
Resident Custodian	Chris LeVasseur
Weekend Custodian	Max Wojewski
Wedding Coordinator	Emmeline Weinert
Nursery Care Giver	Kamryn Hayes, Anna Dupke
Librarian	Carleen Vanderbok

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:
www.zlc-aa.org

Office phone (734) 994-4455

Please submit news items to tower@zlc-aa.org by the 10th of the preceding month.