



**2017
Congregational Council**

Richard Bevington
President

Tim Kostel
Property & Facilities

Karen Dehn
Youth & Young Adults

Andrew Gundlach
Secretary/Treasurer

Suzanne Jeffery
Worship & Music

Nancy Kinsel
Mission & Stewardship

Darlene Lowery
Parish Life

Judy McEowen
Outreach

Carla Mitchell
Faith Formation

Mike Todt
Vice President

ZIONNEWS

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 2017**



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

I don't know about you, but the years just seem to go zipping by faster and faster. I can remember when 2000 seemed a long time off, and now here it is 2017 already. And how things continue to change. I am sure we can all remember things that were and now are, and, it will continue to be so.

We at Zion are in for some changes as we move into 2017, as well as perhaps some new realities. Hopefully it won't be too much longer and we will be calling our new pastor. There will be some adjustments and changes as she/he has their own ideas as to how ministry is to be done in this place. We need to be open to those ideas and changes.

I think we are also going to be confronted with some new



realities. Our attendance has been dropping over recent years. We are not the large congregation we have been used to being. We are getting to be an older congregation. It was a delight to see the young people put on the Christmas Pageant, and there were quite a few of them, but where are they the rest of the year? And as we age, we get fewer and fewer. This is not just an issue for Zion, but is an issue for the ELCA and most of our congregations. I think we will begin to see more and more mergers, closures and multiple congregations sharing pastors and staff. We are seeing some of that here as we are doing joint confirmation ministry with St. Paul as well as contemplating sharing youth ministry staff. We also experienced it with the closing of Resurrection. The only thing that will change this



trend is if we, as individual members take seriously our call to be disciples, sharing the story of our faith with all whom we meet. We need to be asking people to come and worship with us. This is not just the job of the pastor. We are all called to be disciples.

The other thing that comes with the loss of members, is the loss of income. If the pews are not filled, neither will be the offering plates. With the loss of income comes the inability to afford programs we have been used to doing. It might also mean reducing staff. Again, in some cases, this has also meant sharing pastors or closing. It is not just a Lutheran thing. Look at what has happened to our Roman Catholic neighbors. In Port Clinton, one of the Lutheran parishes is sharing a pastor with the Episcopal congregation. Unless our offerings increase, we will not be able to continue the ministries we have been used to.

However, we need to remember that with God all things are possible. If we are willing to commit ourselves to Him we can continue to do our ministry in this place in His name, in the ways in which we have become accustomed. As a New Year's resolution, let us rededicate ourselves to God and His ministry, in the Name of Christ.

Have a blessed New Year.

Pastor Ralph

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

Pastoral Acts
November 16 – December 15, 2016

IN MEMORY OF:

Jana K. Foust: Sharon & Jeffrey Dubois
Jean Bailey: Roger & Deb Gundlach, Klohn Family
Ted Gangluff: Gary Gangluff & Cindy Neiding

WEDDINGS:

None

BAPTISM:

12/4/16 **Jordan Joseph Alten** Son of Bobby & Kayla Alten

FUNERALS:

Joan D. Feltner: service at Groff Funeral Home 11/23/16 by Rev. Dr. Ralph Schibler

James McMahon, Jr.: service at Oakland Cemetery 12/13/16 by Rev. Dr. Ralph Schibler

TRANSFERS (OUT):

David & Kathleen Bodi
Brian, Rebecca & Ethan Ronto

ZIONEWS
ARTICLES DUE
January 23, 2017

Please remember that you must submit a written article in order for it to appear in the newsletter. No partial information will be accepted.

Digital articles submitted by email are preferred. Articles should be emailed directly to Lori Harris at: loriharris@zionsandusky.org by the deadline date.

Please remember to reference "Zionews" in the email subject line so that your article does not end up missed because it went into the "Spam Box". Items received after 4 p.m. on the deadline date cannot be printed in the current issue.

Worship Bags for Children

Children's worship activity bags are here! These bags contain children's bulletin, crayons, story books and other items of interest to help your child expand their worship experience..

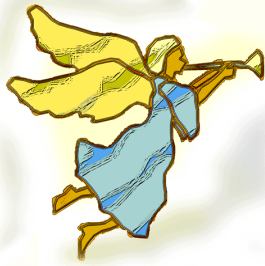


You will find these activity bags hanging on a rack under the Mary/Martha window. The red bags are for pre-readers and the canvas (light) are for early readers. At the close of worship, please remove anything the child has made to take home and return bag and crayons to the basket near the stand.

Children of Zion

The Children of Zion meet each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 in the basement for stories, songs, creative activities fun! Everyone from 2 years old through 5th grade is welcome - come and bring your parents! Check the kiosk in the gathering room for more information. Those who are 6th through 8th grade meet upstairs.





Carolyn's

Corner

An afternoon in prison . . .

Recently several of us visited the Marion Correctional Institution to experience their Christmas pageant that we'd heard about. The inmates work for months as they write the play, design sets, choreograph, learn their lines and present the play in this annual event. What a wonderful Christmas gift to us! As the approximately 50 men acted, sang Christmas carols and told the story of "peace on earth," we witnessed Jesus being born anew - we saw Christ in the faces of these men. Following their curtain call, we were able to briefly meet the actors and stage crew and each one was anxious to hear what we thought of their efforts.

On the trip home we wondered . . . Why are these men in this place? Who might be at home waiting for them? What are their dreams and hopes for the future? What can we do to be a presence for these men or others like them? Please remember that these men are also God's children and keep them and their families in your prayers.

Blessings,
Carolyn

Exploring your Lutheran Faith

If you are thinking about joining Zion or are already a member who has questions about your faith, join us as we explore our faith together. We will meet in the library at Zion on Sundays, January 8th, 15th, and 29th from 6-7 p.m. Please call the office at 419-625-2112.

Mittens for Many!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual mitten tree in gathering. This year we were able to donate **103 hats, 97 pairs of gloves/mittens, and 29 scarves** to the Nehemiah Center and Osborne School.





Capital University

&

Trinity Lutheran Seminary



TRINITY
LUTHERAN
SEMINARY

Reunite

At separate meetings held this month, the boards of Capital and Trinity approved a resolution expressing their mutual commitment to pursue reunion. Reuniting Capital and Trinity also provides the opportunity to define and implement a sustainable business model focused on four key strategies:



- Developing new revenue streams through increased gift and grant opportunities
- Developing new enrollment revenue streams through the creation of new academic programs.
- Optimizing the use of property, buildings and other physical assets; and
- Integrating operations and reducing redundancies

These four strategies, and locations just across the street from one another, will facilitate a successful reunion. A transition team will be formed to study, develop and implement the right reunion plan. Work is underway, and will continue throughout the academic year. It's anticipated that a formal agreement that honors the institutions and all stakeholders-existing and future- will be finalized for approval by both boards by mid-summer 2017, with implementation to follow over the next two years.



PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE

The Zion call committee is pleased to announce that we are headed into a second interview with a recent candidate for our pastoral opening. However, because of the holidays we will not have an opportunity to meet again until early January. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to do the work of the congregation. We are a positive and hardworking group and appreciate all of your support.

***May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us,
Your call committee***

The 2017 Flower Chart is now posted.



Please, take the opportunity to sign up for your special Sunday to place flowers on the altar in honor or in memory of loved ones. Prices for side vases is \$20 and for the center vase is \$25.

PRAYER REQUESTS

When requesting prayer for someone, please keep in mind that the names that are read on the prayer list on Sunday morning do go out over the radio broadcast. Names will be kept on the prayer list for four weeks then removed unless otherwise requested.

We have a prayer list, which is read in the Sunday Worship Service and a prayer chain. The prayer chain sends prayer requests via email to those who have committed to praying. Let us know if you would like the request on one or both lists.



New Bible Study Group

Elaine Conley is taking over the adult Sunday morning group that meets upstairs. When class resumes on January 8th, they will be starting a study of the book of Job.

Church Email Addresses

Pastor Ralph Schibler: rfschibler@roadrunner.com
Carolyn Steinfeldt, AiM: csteinaim@zionsandusky.org
Lori Harris, Office Admin.: loriharris@zionsandusky.org
Lori Wobser, Office Secretary: loriwobser@zionsandusky.org



Church Websites

www.zionsandusky.org (Zion Lutheran Church)
www.nwos-elca.org (Northwestern Ohio Synod)
www.elca.org (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

ZELCW NEWS

Happy New Year to all and may it be filled with many blessings!

I trust everyone had a good Christmas. One thing we can always count on is that the most important part of Christmas is always good! The celebration of Christ's birth and the salvation He brought to all who believe in Him.

The annual Advent program went well. There were 21 in attendance. It was a good program and we enjoyed wonderful fellowship and delicious treats! Thank you, to all who helped in any way with this event.



Hats off to the children in doing an exceptional job with this year's Christmas program. I think it was great to have it during the worship service! It was certainly nice to see so many in church! It should be that way every Sunday!!

Women's Fellowship

Speaking of which, I'm going to go out on a limb here.... I guess it has to do with priorities. Church, family, Sunday School, church school, Luther League (I know I'm dating myself), and family activities use to be top priorities for most, not just some. If it's important enough, you make the time for it. It's said that people / families are busier now a days. When hasn't it been busy for families who had kids involved? The biggest difference is the timing of sports, dance, gymnastic events, etc. being held on Sundays. I understand the importance of sports. I'm a retired Phys. Ed. teacher, coach, and volleyball official. However, God should come first, family should come 2nd, and then the extras. I don't believe God puts us on the back burner until, "He has time for us". He is always with us. I get busy sometimes, too, and have to give myself a kick to get back on track. We all need to try harder. It is a new year! I am going to try harder to stay on the right track and try not to fall off so often. When I think about what Christ did for me on Good Friday, so I could be saved; making Him a priority in my life is the least I can do to show my gratitude.

We just celebrated Consecration Sunday. It's not just about money. Yes, we need to pay bills and be benevolent, but it's more about putting God first in our lives and being grateful for the blessings He has given us. Worship, prayer, Bible study, Sunday School, volunteering at church in all areas, and in the community are just a few ways to show that gratitude to the One who created us. Seems as though numbers for about everything has shrunk, except God's love for us. We need to support church and each other. The church is not just a building, the church is the people of God. There are lots of opportunities at Zion to be the people of God, inside the church and out in the community. It's often the same ones who give of such talents. We need to reach out, younger members need to step up, or some day Zion, as we know it, won't be around. I truly believe that would disappoint our Heavenly Father. The people of Zion have traditionally given much of their time and talents, but it's dwindling. If each member would increase their involvement in just 1 or 2 ways, just think what could happen! It would be exciting to see! Even if it was just to pray daily for the people of Zion, the work we do, and for our community. There are those of you who can't physically participate anymore, but your prayers are just as important! Remember, prayer can move mountains!

I was born and raised at Zion. I love my God and I love my church family. I'm not perfect, I mess up and then I try to do better. I care about the future of not only Zion, but for the survival of God's church as a whole! May God bless us in all the ways that are needed so we can spread His love and to do His work!

"God's work, our hands!"

Carla Mitchell - President ZELCW

Catholic-Lutheran Common Prayer

A service of Catholic-Lutheran Common Prayer will take place in Sandusky on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. This is during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and will recognize the historic commitment each church is making to heal the Body of Christ. *From Conflict to Communion* is a document that spells out the work and journey we will take together.

Download document at: <http://tinyurl.com/zion-common-prayer>

ZLECW Monthly Group Meetings

Circle of Friends

Wednesday, January 4
7:00 pm
4404 Woodridge Drive



Book Connection

Wednesday, January 25
2:30 pm
Zion Library

Agape

Wednesday, January 4
7:00 pm
Zion Library

Priscilla

Thursday, January 5
9:30 a.m.
232 Jackson Street
Apt. #305

Quilters Needs

The quilters are in need of large pieces of material to use for quilt backs. Each back requires 4 yards to complete the quilt. Cotton material works the best, in any color or pattern, no white please. If you would like to help this ministry, you can purchase material by the bolt or by yardage at Joanne Fabrics or Walmart. We were able to make and ship 163 quilts this year.



Please help us continue this ministry of Lutheran World Relief.

Dates:	<i>1/1/17</i>	<i>1/8/17</i>	<i>1/15/16</i>	<i>1/22/16</i>	<i>1/29/1</i>
Wine <i>8 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	Tom & Cindy Patterson Suzanne Jeffery Chet Leser	Kris Stradtman & Randy Koch Dan Willey Ron Dahs	Dick & Marlene Long George Clements & Chet Leser	Tom & Cindy Patterson John & Judy Mears	Kris Stradtman & Randy Koch Dan Willey Ron Dahs
Lectors <i>8 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	Dick Long Laurie Mears	Jean Bossetti Mike Bailey	Dean Meyers Sylvia Gembka	Andy Gundlach Carol Albert	Dick Long Bill Steinfeldt
Prayers <i>8 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	Judy Mears	Laura Stellhorn	Carolyn Steinfeldt Ann Cerny	Marjorie Burton	Carolyn Steinfeldt
Children's Message	Connie Castello	Hope Bailey	Marjorie Burton	Dale Cerny	Laurie Mears
Sound Board <i>8 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	Janet Stradtman Bob Butlert	Andy Gundlach John Nejedly	Dean Meyers Bob Butler	Janet Stradtman Tom Kostel	Andy Gundlach Bob Butler
Gathering Hosts <i>8a m</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	TBA Volunteers will be contacted	TBA Volunteers will be contacted	TBA Volunteers will be contacted	TBA Volunteers will be contacted	TBA Volunteers will be contacted
Greeters	Roslyn & Rahney Orticari	Lyle Marquardt	Bill Bossetti	Joanne Hosey	Virginia Lillian



January Ushers 10:30

Dan Willey, George Clements, Dianne
Farrar, Patti Keller, Michael Gast





***Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting
November 9, 2016 7:00 p.m.***

CALL TO ORDER: President Richard Bevington called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Richard Bevington, Mike Todi, Andy Gundlach, Carla Mitchell, Judy McEowen, Karen Dehn, Darlene Lowery, Rev. Dr. Ralph Schibler and Lori Harris.

Absent: Carolyn Steinfeldt, AiM, Suzanne Jeffery, Bill Bossetti, Tim Kostel and Nancy Kinsel.

Guest: Richard Grubbe

OPENING PRAYER & HYMN: President Richard Bevington said the opening prayer. Lamb of God (Setting Four) was sung.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION: Attorney Richard Grubbe presented a bequest from a clients estate.

CORRESPONDENCE: Was read by Recording Secretary, Lori Harris.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Judy McEowen made a motion to approve the amended agenda, (added to Old Business – Policies & Procedures proposed changes and to New Business – Council Vacancy) Mike Todi seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mike Todi made a motion to approve the October 12, 2016 Council Minutes as written. Carla Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Carla Mitchell made a motion at accept the November 6, 2016 Congregation Council Minutes as official minutes. Darlene Lowery seconded the motion, motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Rev. Dr. Ralph Schibler – written report submitted. The Adult Sunday school class is Luther's Small Catechism in preparation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Carolyn Steinfeldt – written report submitted.

TREASURERS REPORT/INVOICE LIST: Andy Gundlach moved that the Invoice List with a total of \$20,936.76 paid/unpaid invoices to be approved. Mike Todi seconded the motion, motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed; Andy invited Council members to attend the Consecration Leaders Dinner on Sunday, November 6. Volunteers needed for help with preparing next letter on Monday, November 7. Andy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Carla Mitchell seconded the motion, motion carried.

FLAME: Judy McEowen reported that the Advent Devotional is ready to be distributed. The written report was shared.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Faith Formation – Carla Mitchell shared the written report.

Worship/Music – no report.

Parish Life – Darlene Lowery working on scheduling Gathering Host for the next month.

Outreach – Judy McEowen reported that the Prayer Vigil held on Election Day had 9 participants. Updates on the Prison Ministry and LMH Auxiliary discussed.

Youth/Young Adult – Karen Dehn reported that the Shared Ministry job description is near completion. The group is planning to have it ready to present at the Annual Meeting.

Finance/Administration – no report.

Property/Facilities – Mike Todi shared the written report noting that the work on the parking lot will be on hold until spring.

Mission/Stewardship – Report was submitted with Council Packet.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Policies & Procedures and By Laws - Andy Gundlach made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures as presented by committee. Mike Todi seconded the motion, motion carried. Mike Todi made a motion to present the proposed By Law changes to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting February 5, 2017. Andy Gundlach seconded the motion, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council Vacancy - Darlene Lowery made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of William Bossetti from Congregation Council. Carla Mitchell seconded the motion, motion carried. Suggestions of a replacement should be submitted to Rich Bevington.

FAITH STORY: Carla Mitchell shared a faith story.

NOVEMBER PRAYER & HYMN ASSIGNMENT: Tim Kostel, Property/Facilities.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lori Harris, Recording Secretary*

**ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Sandusky, OH 44870

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Organization

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January 2017

WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS 8:00 & 10:30 AM and SATURDAYS 6:00 PM

Communion is Offered at Each Service

10:30 AM Sunday Worship Service is Broadcast Live on WLEC 1450AM
and on the World Wide Web at WWW.WLEC.COM
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is handicapped accessible.

Sunday School, 9:15 AM: 2 yrs. – 12th Grade
Adult Sunday School, 9:15 AM - Stellhorn Library
9:15 AM Informal Bible Study - Rm. 205

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ralph Schibler
Director of Faith Formation: Carolyn Steinfeldt, AiM