

ZION NEWS

A publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
85 E. Brandt Blvd.
Landisville, PA

Issue 10: December 2014/January 2015

The Ministers of Zion: Every member of the congregation
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Greetings from your very busy Congregational Council!

Merry Christmas! feliz Navidad! καλά Χριστούγεννα (kala christougenna)! heri la Krismasi! Noeliniz kutlu olsun! frohe Weihnachten! joyeux Noël! glædelig jul! buon Natale! Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh!

No matter how in the world you say them, the words, "Merry Christmas," bring a smile to one's face. Of course the smile may accompany a sarcastic tone of voice if one is saying this greeting in September, when the first Christmas decorations were up in a few stores.

What season is it, anyway? "Christmas is coming" has been the announcement of store advertisements and decorations for at least two months. These reminders have been side by side with Halloween and Thanksgiving paraphernalia. In the real world, it seems that the holiday "seasons" are all rolled into one. This is not a new phenomenon. All the way back in 1994, the movies brought Halloween and Christmas together in a film called, "Nightmare Before Christmas."

Years ago, the rhythm of the seasons in the U.S. was in sync with the calendar of the Christian Church Year. With the mobility provided by international air travel, the secularization of our society and the globalization of both our real and virtual lives, the traditional church calendar is now out of sync with everyday life. Celebrating church seasons such as Epiphany, Lent, Pentecost and Advent seems outdated and perhaps even unnecessary. There are many Protestant denominations that only celebrate Christmas and Easter with the Festival of Pentecost as the culmination of the Easter Season. Why do
(cont'd on pg. 2)

Connecting with God, connecting with others, connecting others with God

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(Pastor JMe's keyboard, cont'd from pg. 1)

Lutherans still hold to the tradition of following a liturgical calendar when it doesn't seem to relate to the "real world"?

The best explanation I've found comes not from a Lutheran theologian or liturgist but from an Evangelical website entitled, "The Voice." According to the Home Page, "**THE VOICE** is the Internet web site of CRI/Voice, Institute, a global and ecumenical ministry dedicated to providing biblical and theological resources for growing Christians." Apparently, some Evangelical churches are discovering how meaningful the themes of the Church Year can be to worship.

In his article entitled, "The Seasons of the Church Year," David Bratcher writes:
"The changing seasons of the year...provide us with recurring opportunities to celebrate the Christian Faith in worship. The Christian church, following earlier Jewish tradition, has long used the seasons of the year as an opportunity for festivals and holidays, sacred time set aside to worship God as the Lord of life.

"While Jewish celebration revolves around the Exodus from Egypt, the Christian Church year focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus. The sequence of festivals from Advent to Resurrection Sunday becomes an annual spiritual journey for worshippers as they kneel at the manger, listen on a hillside, walk the streets of Jerusalem, hear the roar of the mob, stand beneath the cross, and witness the resurrection! The rest of the church year provides opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the coming of Jesus and his commission to his people to be a light to the world."

As we enter the season of Advent, I invite you to approach this period as the beginning of an "annual spiritual journey" for your life of worship and a means to continue your growth and maturity as a Christian. May you and yours have a blessed Advent season and a very Merry Christmas!

ⁱ Website URL: <http://www.cresourcei.org>

¹¹ Quotation from "The Seasons of the Church Year," by David Bratcher. "Copyright © 2013 CRI/Voice, Institute"

Pastor JMe Will Travel to Greece and Turkey in January

Pastor JMe and her spouse, Pastor Bob Lowden, will be traveling to Greece and Turkey for professional continuing education in January. They will be overseas from January 3rd until January 25th. This trip, approved by the Zion Congregation Council, will focus on ancient sites related to the history of the Christian faith and church such as: places visited by St. Paul during his evangelistic travels, locations of some of the First Century Christian communities mentioned in the Book of Revelation, sites related to the Great Schism of the Church into Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) Communions and the impact of the rise of Islam on Christianity.

(Cont'd on pg. 3)

♦ Pastor Traveling (cont'd), Property

(cont'd from pg. 2)

While in Turkey, Pastors JMe and Bob will be traveling with a group of pastors and seminary students led by Professor Marty Stevens of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA. This tour is a January term class for educational credit provided by the seminary. Participants are expected to provide introductory presentations for sites being visited and to lead a daily devotional service. During the trip, Pastor JMe will provide a presentation for the group on the discovery of the ruins of the ancient city of Troy- a place she has desired to visit and a topic she has been interested in since studying Greek mythology during High School. For preparation of a future study at Zion, she will also focus on the history of the Council of Nicaea and the development of the Nicene Creed. At Pergamum, she will lead a "Service of Prayer for Healing" for the tour group. Pergamum was an ancient site for healing and is mentioned in Revelation 1:11 as one of the early Christian communities.

During her travels (pending internet availability), Pastor JMe will post blog articles and pictures on the Zion Salt and Light Journal (<http://zionsaltandlightjournal.blogspot.com>) and brief updates on the Zion Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/ZELCLandisville>).

Pastoral Supply for Worship and Care

The Rev. Dione Klepetke, the Chaplain for St. John's Herr Estates in Columbia, will be the Pastoral Supply during January while Pastor JMe is away. She will preach and lead worship on three Sundays, January 4, 11, and 18. Pastor JMe will be present for worship on Sunday, January 25th, the first ZYM-led worship services of the New Year. Chris and the youth will be providing worship leadership and the message for both services on that Sunday.

PROPERTY submitted by Jere Grube

As the weather turns colder the property team has been actively preparing for the winter ahead. We are continuing to investigate the source of the water that has been entering the old church basement. We had the underground drain lines flushed and scoped to make sure they are open. We also discovered a blocked drain opening and a clogged downspout, both of which may have contributed to water pooling in the area between the old church and the old Sunday school wing. These issues have been resolved and we are investigating whether or not the rain gutters in that area are adequate.

A contract for snow removal has been signed with Shull's Tree service. Shull's did a good job removing trees for us at a reasonable price and they expressed interest in doing snow removal for us. They are a

local company and insured us that we will be a priority for them on the days of church services, food pantry and nursery school. Shull's will also allow the sextons and any volunteers to help out with snow removal as they are able. Hopefully this winter will be easier to deal with than the last one, but we are prepared for whatever nature brings us.

Some other projects under way or on the agenda include: repair of several exterior doors, evaluation and upgrade of exit signs and emergency lighting, and evaluation of the phone system especially regarding the nursery school.

As always, if you see anything that needs the property team's attention or notice a small task you would be able to help with, feel free to contact any of the property team members: Jere Grube, Darrell Gerke, Bob Traup, Bill Grove, Doug or Connie Grow.

♦ Women of Zion, Thrivent

Mark these dates on your calendar now, so you don't forget them during the busy Christmas season and New Year!

➡ **December 6, Saturday, 9 AM** - Fill Food Pantry gift bags in Social Room

➡ **December 14, Sunday, 1 PM** - Make Iris paper folded greeting cards in Social Room. See the bulletin board for sample of card and a sign up sheet.

➡ **January 31, Saturday, 10 AM** - WOZ New Year's Breakfast at Country Table Restaurant. Invite a new member, a relative, or a friend!

Yarn Ministry - December 7 and January 4 and 18, Sunday, 1 PM in Social Room. Join us to knit or crochet. Instructions and help is happily provided!

Blanket Ministry - December 1 and January 5, Sunday, in Social Room. Whether you call them blankets, comforters or quilts, we make them for the needy and we need more help. We need people to knot, cut fabric, layer fabric, measure and sew. You may choose which task you would like!

Hello all Thrivent Members!

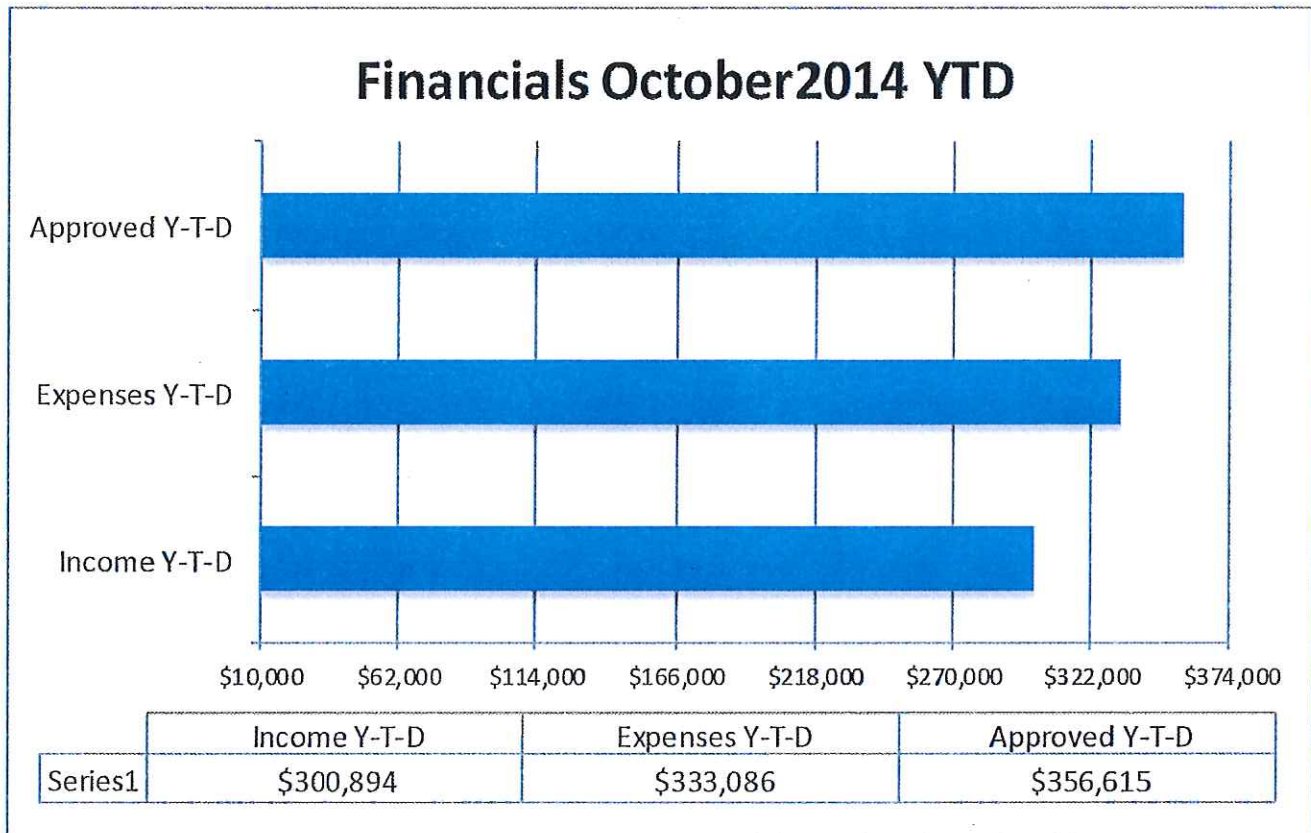
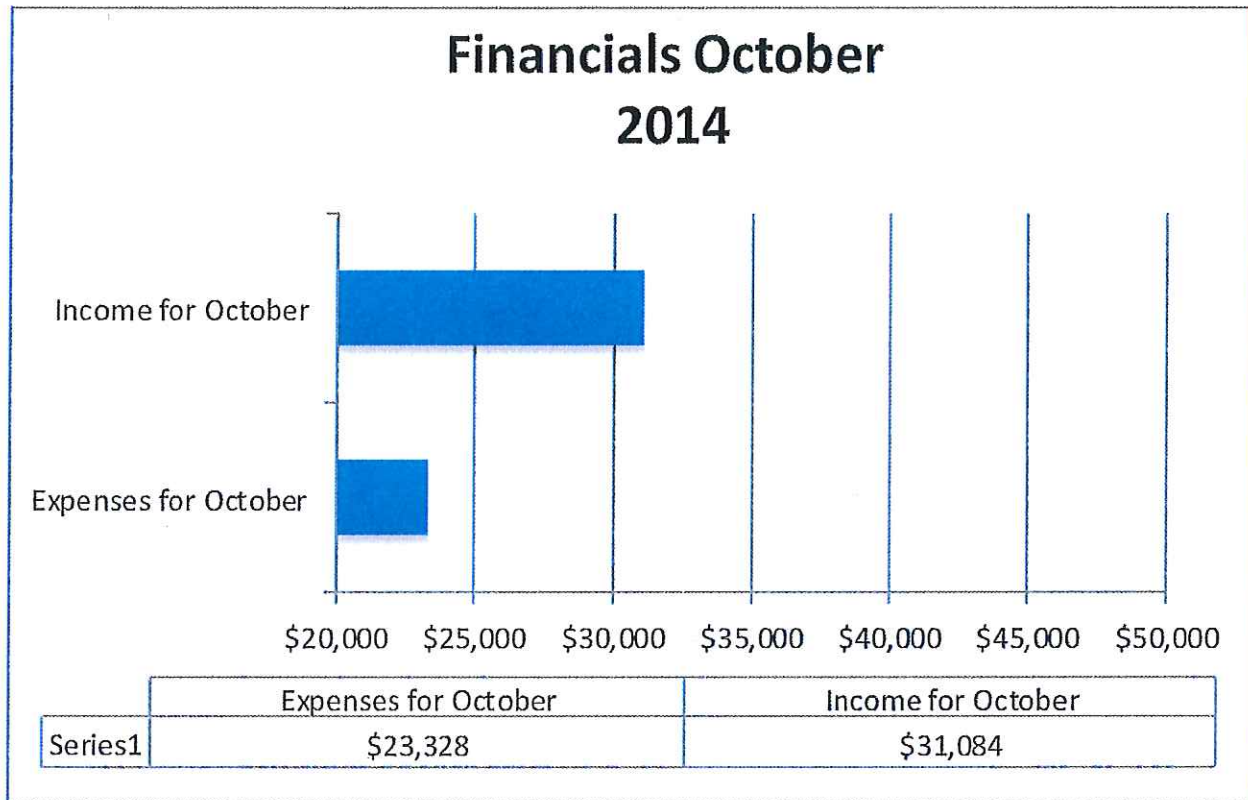
Thrivent has introduced a new program which gives members the opportunity to "take action" in support of a particular need in the community. You are invited to lead an Action Team for the purpose of making an immediate impact in the community by facilitating a service project, fundraiser, or educational event. Each member is eligible to receive \$250 for each approved project, and every member is allowed to request funding for two projects per year. The intent is to bring people together to take action and help others, not merely gift money. Anyone can help with your project.

Zion has many Thrivent members. We could have many Action Teams led by different Thrivent members and provide support to many outreach projects in our community. The \$250 for each project can be used for supplies, advertising, seed money for a fundraiser, or to cover other expenses associated with the project. This is a wonderful resource which could allow us to significantly expand our outreach efforts. The Women of Zion have requested the first Action Team project and will use the money to buy supplies for the quilts they make and donate to the needy. It is a very simple process to request the funds. More details can be found at www.Thrivent.com/actionteam.

Thrivent members, do not forget to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars this year. Year to date, Zion has received \$4460 in Thrivent Choice dollars.

For any questions about Thrivent programs, or how to become a Thrivent member, please contact Lisa Nelson.

♦ Financial Figures (October)



Year-End-Giving

Give Thanks!

Now is the season to give thanks to God for all He has done for us this past year and throughout our lives. It is also a good time to begin considering how we might give back some of our wealth or assets to Him through His Church with a special year-end gift of cash or appreciated assets such as shares of stock.

Consider Making a Year-End Gift.

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Zion. The benefits of income tax deduction, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end.

There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to Zion, please contact Darrell Gerke at 898-8407 or dbgerke@verizon.net.

I ask you to prayerfully consider giving a little extra between now and the end of the year to help close the gap between our giving and our expenses for 2014. Zion is our church home that provides all of us a place to worship and praise Him every Sunday. Your gift will go a long way to allow us to spread the Good News.

Paraphrased from a Stewardship Article from the Archdiocese of St. Louis



♦ Hempfield Area Food Pantry

Submitted by Diane Gerlach

In October, the pantry served 205 families which included 273 children, 410 adults, and 94 seniors for a total of 777 people served. **We registered 19 new families in October.**

During October, Zion members donated **158 pounds of food** to the pantry. Thank you to the members who contributed financially to the pantry. The pantry purchased chickens and turkeys to give to our clients for their Thanksgiving holiday dinner.



During the month of October....Darrenkamps of Mount Joy donated 1,912 pounds of fresh produce to the pantry; **Target in Lititz** donated 1,303 pounds of fresh produce and bakery items; **Weis Markets in Columbia** donated 921 pounds of bread and bakery items. **Weis Stony Battery Road** donated 471 pounds of bread and bakery items. **Weis Markets Inc. from their Sunbury office** presented our pantry with gift cards totaling \$181.85. These gift cards will be used to purchase items at the Weis Markets in our area.

We continue to be blessed with **many volunteers who give their time to the pantry** each Monday and Wednesday as well as additional time as needed. Seventy seven volunteers gave 706 hours for the month of October.

This time of year, the pantry receives many **special food drive donations** of food. To date, these collections have included....Boy Scout Troop, Pack 37 Landisville; Boy Scout troop pack 138 of Rohrerstown; Eastern Mennonite Mission Office Salunga. Hinkle's Pharmacy donated a large assortment of candy....special treats for our pantry children!!!! The Hempfield School District is collecting food district wide for a delivery in early December. Several other drives are in the process. **THANK YOU** to all who remember those less fortunate during this holiday season.

YOU are welcome **visit the community pantry located here at Zion on our "open" days to witness God's hands, heart, and love in action! Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Food items requested for the months of November/ December...peanut butter; 15 oz. canned fruit; cereal.



Together we will feed the hungry!

WINTER RETREAT

December 12 – 14, 2014, all of ZYM will be going away to Camp Kirchenwald for the Winter Retreat. The theme we will be talking about is "Superheroes: What's your power?" The cost for the retreat is \$40. Bring a friend for even more fun! Deadline to register is December 7, 2014.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 21, 2014, we will have our Christmas Party! If anyone would be interested in hosting this party at their house it would help create a great Christmas atmosphere! Please contact Chris (717-715-6861) if you would like to host! For this party everyone should bring a \$10 gift that will be exchanged during a game! Also, a prize will be awarded to whoever wears the "BEST" Christmas sweater!

WINTERFEST

January 2-4, 2015, the Senior High will be having fun at the Synod's Winterfest at the Lancaster Host Resort! The theme this year is "Hungry?" The cost per person is \$80. If you come to the Winter Retreat too, your cost is \$70. Deadline to register is December 1, 2014.

SNOWTUBING

Sunday, January 18, 2015, we will be going Snow Tubing at Ski Roundtop. The cost for this event is \$25. Bring a friend! We will stop for dinner after we are done tubing. Please bring \$10 for dinner.

UPCOMING ZYM MEETINGS, EVENTS, & ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

- 3 Advent Family Night
- 7 H2H @ 6 PM
- 12-14 Winter Retreat
- 21 Christmas Party @ 5 PM

JANUARY 2015

- 2-4 Winterfest 2015
- 4 H2H @ 6 PM
- 11 ZYM @ 6 PM
- 16 Isaac's Eat Out Night
- 18 ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting
Snowtubing (Leave @ 1 PM)
- 25 ZYM-Led Services
H2H @ 6 PM

FEBRUARY

- 1 Flag Football @ 3 PM
Superbowl Party @ 6 PM
- 8 Sponsorship Fundraiser
H2H @ 6 PM
- 15 ZYM @ 6 PM
- 17 Shrove Tues. Pancake Fundraiser
- 20-22 H2H Retreat

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 1, 2015, we will participate in our own Flag Football game at 3 PM on the field across Cooper from the church. After that we will all get together to watch the game and eat pizza at 6 PM. A location has not been decided yet. Anyone who would like to host this event, please contact Chris.

◆ Kids Club, Advent Family Night & Activities



Meeting Times Coming Up...

(Wednesdays, 6 – 7 PM)

Dec. 3, 2014 (Advent Family Night)

Dec. 17, 2014 (Christmas Party)

Jan. 21, 2015

Feb. 4, 2015

Feb. 18, 2015

Every other Wednesday night from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, Zion will host its own Kids Club (Age PreK through Grade 5). All children from the community are welcome to attend! The kids will make crafts, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into some great snacks, and learn some fun bible stories. Parents are welcome to use this time to run some errands, take a needed break, join their kids in making crafts, or join Pastor JMe for a social time with other parents to share dessert and discuss the issues that parents are facing today!

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, Dec. 3rd from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Come out with the entire family to start the Advent season off right!

It will be an evening of crafts for all ages, sing-a-long, and a brief Advent service.

The evening will begin with a soup & salad meal at 5:30 and the other activities will begin at 6. Bring the whole gang!



ADVENT MEAL & STUDY

Take some time out of the hubbub of this month and join others in fellowship on Wednesdays, Dec. 10 & 17 for an Advent meal at 5:30 PM followed by an Advent study and brief service.

All are welcome and invited to come and share in this time of preparation for the Christ child.

♦ Advent & Christmas Eve At Zion

Christmas Events and Services at Zion

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17

Advent Meal: 5:30 - 6 PM in the social room

Advent Study led by Pastor JMe: 6 - 7 PM in the parlor

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Advent Family Night: 6 - 7:30 PM. Come to the Advent Meal and then enjoy activities for all ages. This event will be held in the social room.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Liederkrantz Concert: 5 PM in the sanctuary



Sunday, Dec. 14th

Hempfield Singers Holiday Concert: 7 PM in the sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services: Wed. Dec. 24th

3:00 PM - Service of Lessons & Carols with communion

7:00 PM - Family Friendly/Contemporary with communion

10:00 PM - Traditional with communion

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the staff of Zion

TOM
Diane

Chris
Marie

Pastor JMe
Anne
Brian

♦ Christ Lutheran, Community Meal

CHRIST LUTHERAN MEAL

Submitted by Linda Bear

Blessings

"In this moment, mindful of our many blessings, may we form an intent to carry gratitude with us continually." "Thanksgiving Prayer" by Rabbi Maralee Gordon

Blessings abound at Zion within our Christ Lutheran Meal Ministry, and we are grateful for those blessings we have received and those we have given to others in our community.

We are blessed:

1. to have the teachings of Jesus to guide us to reach out to others in His name.
2. to have a congregation and a pastor who supports this ministry.
3. to be part of the Social Outreach Team that organizes this ministry.
4. to have enough money to purchase food and supplies for this meal.
5. to have regular volunteers who recruit and organize our volunteers, order and organize the supplies, pick up and deliver food, prepare the food, make desserts, and help to serve and clean-up the evening of the meal.
6. to have partners from Bright Side Baptist Church to come beside us to greet, serve, do the dishes, sanitize the tables, stack the chairs, sweep and mop the floors, empty the trash, and carry supplies.
7. to have Christ Lutheran Church

opens its doors and allow us to use their kitchen equipment and dining room furniture for these community meals.

8. to be a blessing to others in need of a warm, nutritious meal and companionship.

Our first meal in January 2015 is scheduled on Thursday, January 8, and we are thankful that Bright Side Baptist volunteers have agreed to continue our partnership for another year! (We will continue to work on the challenge of having either too many or not enough volunteers and apologize to anyone who has chosen to leave due to those circumstances.) Please mark **Thursday, January 8, 2015** on your calendar now, and pick up an extra cake mix and some icing when you shop. January will be here before we know it! Blessings to each of you!

COMMUNITY MEAL

Submitted by Joanne Grim

At the end of October I attended a board meeting of Isaac's Restaurant to share with them how the community used their soup last winter. I also gave them a pamphlet of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry so that they could understand the need in this area. They were very pleased that we used their soup in so many areas. This coming winter they will be donating in January, February, and March. This program is based on the number of bowls of soup they sell to

restaurant patrons. For every 100 bowls sold, Isaac's will donate a quart of their signature Pepper Jack Tomato soup. Last year we received over 125 quarts of soup. We will use this soup for shut-ins, food pantry, meals at Zion and sharing with Zion in East Petersburg for their Monday night community meals.

It is that time of year again when we are putting together the schedule for volunteers to prepare and serve the weekly meal. We are getting a good response but can always use more! Please pray about doing a meal in 2015.

A special thanks to the Thompson family and the Bernhard family for coordinating the Thanksgiving meal.

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

4	Rotary Club
11	Wayside Presbyterian
18	Hempfield Student Council
25	No Meal

JANUARY

1	No Meal
8	Hempfield Church of the Brethren
15	Zion
22	TBD
29	Landisville Mennonite

♦ From Brenda Alimo, Prayer Team

16/9/2014

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I am Justine, a brother to your happy child, Brenda. I am writing on her behalf. She has gone back at school one week ago after one month of holiday. We are all healthy and doing well. Thank you for writing to Brenda and the family in general. She is 30 km far away from home but she always stays home when she is back from school for holidays. Thank you so much for the love and care you always offer to us. We have finished the population census two weeks ago. Thank you for the Bible verses you have sent to Brenda. May the Almighty bless you all.

FROM THE PRAYER TEAM...

Submitted by Dolly Overly

The reason people don't give thanks to God in praise is because they don't know Him well enough. The more you know of Him, the more you perceive His goodness, the more you can't help but thank, praise, and worship Him for who He is and what He has done. And the more you do that, the more joy you will have in your heart.

FIFTEEN REASONS TO PRAISE THE LORD

1. To enthrone God and acknowledge His greatness (Ps. 95:1-5)
2. To increase our awareness of God's presence (Ps. 103)
3. To have the joy of the Lord (Ps. 30)
4. To acknowledge God's hand in every area of our lives (Ps. 91)
5. To release God's power into our situations (Ps. 144)
6. To know God better (Ps. 50:23)
7. To break our chains of bondage and bring deliverance (Ps. 50:14-15)
8. To be under God's covering of safety and protection (Ps. 95:6-7)
9. To strengthen the soul and be transformed (Ps. 138:1-3)
10. To receive guidance and establish God's purposes in our lives (Ps. 16:7-11)
11. To thwart the devil's plans for our destruction (Ps. 92)
12. To dissipate doubt and increase faith (Ps. 27)
13. To be delivered from fear (Ps. 34)
14. To bring a fresh flow of His Holy Spirit in us (Ps 40)
15. To possess all that God has promised for us (Ps 147)

♦ Quilt Auction, Stephen Ministry

Quilt Auction News

The silent auction of the handmade quilt has come to an end with the final bid of \$500.00 made by Karen and Jon Wright. The proceeds will be used to purchase supplies for quilts and comforters made by the Comforter Ministry of the Women of Zion. These comforters are given to those who need them.

“Third 3rd of Life” Presentations a Success!

Beginning Saturday, October 25th, Zion Stephen Ministries hosted a series of five programs on “Third 3rd of Life: Issues in Aging.” An average of 20 participants attended these excellent sessions led by professionals from the Lancaster area. In addition to members of Zion, participants hailed from Landisville/Lancaster, Lititz and Elizabethtown. Topics of the sessions included: choices in care and residential living, hospice care, dementia and dementia care, mental health and the typical aging process, spirituality and end of life decisions and side effects of prescription medications. Participant and speakers applauded the series both as a valuable source of information and resources and as an excellent means of outreach to the community. Our sincere appreciation goes to the presenters who made this series a success:

Lesley A. Huff, PsyD., Licensed Psychologist, Samaritan Counseling Center, Lancaster

Connie Metzler, Memory (Dementia) Care Program, Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster

Theresa Baker, MSW, Community Life Manager, Luther Acres, Lititz

Joan Groh, Community Relations Representative, Hospice and Community Care, Mt. Joy

Rev. Jack Esbenshade, Retired UCC minister and nursing home administrator, currently a long term care ombudsman for Lancaster County

John Hinkle, Sr., Pharmacist and Owner, Hinkle's Pharmacy, Columbia

Special thanks is also extended to Tom and Mary Grzybowski who were instrumental in organizing and coordinating the series and to Zion's Stephen Ministers, Judy Traup, Angela & Rich Sieglitz, and Nancy Price, for providing refreshments and assisting with logistics. Stay tuned in for possible future events sponsored by Zion's Stephen Ministries!



♦ Within The Wider Church



PATHWAYS **CENTER for** **GRIEF & LOSS**

SOCIALIZING IN THE MIDST OF LOSS

After the loss of a loved one, many find their social environment has changed. It may be difficult to know where or how to start socializing again. Hospice provides the following options to dine with others. (Each participant pays for their own meal.)

⇒ **Ladies Lunch:** Loxley's Restaurant
1500 Centerville Rd., Lanc.
Wed., Dec. 17th, 11:30 AM - 1 PM

⇒ **Men's Breakfast:** The Apple Tree Restaurant
100 S. Centerville Rd., Lanc.
Tues., Dec. 23rd, 8 AM - 9:30 AM



After a loss, many find it helpful to meet with others and talk about how to get through the holidays. Weekly opportunities to connect with others are available throughout the season.

- ⇒ **"Planning Ahead":** Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 - ⇒ **"Grief & the Holidays":** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
 - ⇒ **"Creating A Memory Box":** Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:00 - 8:30 PM [This activity is open to children, teens, and adults.]
 - ⇒ **"Living For Today":** Tuesday, Dec. 23, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
-

Light Up A Life...

Please join us for the Hospice & Community Care Tree-Lighting Ceremony in memory of loved ones during this holiday season.

Wednesday, December 3

6:30 PM: Enjoy music by Auscultation Brass

7:00 PM: Tree lighting

Parking will be at the Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion; a shuttle service will take guests to the ceremony. Handicapped parking will be available at the Hospice Center.





Trinity UCC

2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
www.trinityeastpete.org

Concert/Desserts

Featuring
Trinity Church Musicians

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Concert – 6:00 PM

Desserts Following The Concert
Sign-up Sheet In Church Narthex

Or

Call 569-1632 For Dessert Reservations

Freewill Offering
Supports Handbell Fund



♦ Lutheran Camping Corporation Events

STUDY SERIES AT THE WITTEL FARM

Over the next several months, The Rev. Robert Hoover will be leading a study of Celebration of Discipline, Richard J. Foster's 1978 work on spiritual practices. The study series will take place at the Wittel Farm House of Prayer just outside of Elizabethtown on Mill Rd. Participants will gather between 9:30 and 10 AM, a light lunch will be serviced at noon, and the schedule will conclude by 2 PM.

STUDY DATES:

Wednesday, Feb. 11
Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, April 8

Pastor Hoover has designed the series so that participants can attend all or some of the sessions. While there is great richness in working through the book as a group, the attendance is not required at all sessions. Each session has a registration fee of \$15. Please register at: www.LutheranCamping.org or by calling the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

ADVENT FAMILY RETREAT

It's so easy for us to get caught up in the busyness of day-to-day living. When you throw in the added excitement of preparing for Christmas (baking, shopping, concerts, decorating, parties, etc.) Advent, a season meant for prayerful thoughts and reflection, can quickly devolve into a whirlwind of tinsel, bows, and credit card bills.

This December, set aside some time for your family to think about keeping Advent. We will be exploring traditional and new ways of waiting and watching for the birth of Christ, even while the flurry of contemporary culture swirls around us. Join us, December 12-13, at Nawakwas's Zinn-Tozer Lodge. Registration is available on the website: www.LutheranCamping.org

Advent Family Retreat
Hope & Expectation

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AT WITTEL FARM, NAWAKWA, & KIRCHENWALD

Dec. 6: Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
Jan. 2 - 4: Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald



♦ Notes, Congrats, Sympathy, Reminders

NOTES TO ZION...

♦ **From Mike Miller**

Thank you all so much for all your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my hospitalization and continued recovery. This warmth and support is critical to my recovery. A special thanks to Nancy Myers for bringing me the church flowers; they made my day. Thank you, also, to Pastor JMe for her visits and for bringing me home communion; these meant a lot to me and my nurse, Arlene. Zion ELC is a treasured ministry! God bless you all!

♦ **From Sarah Thompson**

Thank you very much for the thoughtful care package that you sent me. I appreciate all the school supplies and snacks, and will definitely enjoy them. The past couple of weeks have been pretty busy and stressful, so this was a great pick-me up. It is so nice of you to keep thinking about me even when I am away at school, and I am grateful to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you again, and God bless!

♦ **From Shane Symonds**

I know this is late but thank you so much for the care package you sent last month! I have used practically everything that was sent to me and the snacks saved me many times when I needed to grab something quick. It has been a while since I've been to church so I am looking forward to being back. It is definitely a challenge to keep up with your faith life at school but I try my best to get a little prayer in before meals and before bed. I hope everything is well at Zion and I will see you soon!

♦ **Hymnal Donation**

Donation of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Hymnals

Friends of Pastor JMe, Joan and Jim Getschman, donated four ELW hymnals to Zion in November. The Getschmans were members of the first congregation JMe served, Lutheran Church of the Living Word in Columbia, Maryland. They have visited and worshipped with us at Zion several times and are impressed with the variety of ministries for outreach and care that our congregation provides. Thank you Joan and Jim for your generous gift!

CONGRATULATIONS...

- ♦ ...to Brett & Julie Rhoads on the baptism of their son, Isaac Douglas Rhoads, on November 30th.

SYMPATHY...

- ♦ ...to Phil Houseal and his family on the death of his mother, Naomi Julius Houseal, on October 19th.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER

Attention all team leaders! It's that time of year again...please start working on your year-end report. The deadline is December 12th. The report should also include team goals for 2015.

♦ December Celebrations



1	Amelia Golihew	8	Ron Crawford	20	Brenda Stover
2	Heather Gronholm	10	Philip Smeltz	23	Linda Bear
2	Kaylee Thompson	11	Bill Flood	23	Don Wierschke
3	Kim Contino	11	Brad Ingersoll	24	Holly Hoover
4	Tracie Andrew	12	Melodie Dearolf	24	Sue Wise
4	Bryce Burfete	12	Curt Rogers	25	Mary Gerlach
6	Joseph Gorlaski	13	Nina Laliberte	25	Dave Wauls
6	Jaden Myers	13	Sarah Thompson	26	Alex Groff
7	Bradley Green	14	Christian Benedict	28	Judy Brady
		15	Nathan Bear	28	Deb Grube
		15	Kaylyn Ringso	28	Floyd Weidler
		15	Ted Symonds	29	Steve Haun
		17	Travis Jackson	30	Arianna Jackson
		18	Nathanial Deibler	30	Joan Mays
		18	Diane Ramer		
		18	Nancy Smith		

HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

1	Kevin Rickert	13	Lois Peterson	28	Doug Searle
4	Cheryl Callahan	14	Ava Gronholm	30	Emma Baumgardner
5	Mary Hetrick	14	Soren Gronholm		
9	Zachary Houseal	16	Hailee Small		
9	Deb Long	18	Sara Hoover		
10	Catherine Donell	18	Sam Myers		
10	Mary Jane Unger	20	Carolyn Klinger		
11	Joan Hostetter	22	Cathy Benedict		
11	Erica Kearon	22	Marty Gerlach		
12	Amanda Grube	22	Mary Gerlach		
12	Sue Hinds	23	Kara Barr		
13	Joe Hinds	23	Brett Houseal		
		24	Aarin Deibler		
		25	Devin Leibley		
		28	Todd Benedict		



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5	Richard & Angela Sieglitz (1st)
20	Weidler & Gloria Grube (67th)

♦ January Celebrations



1	Darlene Smeltz	7	Dianne Coons	20	Jessica Wise
3	Soren Gronholm	11	Dave Klepper	22	Emma Baumgardner
3	Sarah Laliberte	12	Meagan Bilbrough	22	Dolly Overly
3	Eric Searle	12	Nathan Myers	22	Charles Reinhard
5	Kelsey Pfautz	12	Patrick Rogers	25	Anna Benedict
6	Randy Miller	13	Julia Grove	26	Jonathan Youssef
		15	Jason Shirk	27	Millie Gundel
		16	Adelyn Seyfried	28	Zachary Morgan
		17	Al Ramer		
		19	Lisa Bernhard		
		19	Dylan Gromen		
		20	Glen Anderson		
		20	Jayann Leibley		

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

1	Dave Albin	1	Pauline Hess-Fisher	10	Emma Golihew
1	Al Alsedek	1	Phil Houseal	21	Ty Myers
1	Jim Bear	1	Joan Mays	23	Justin Propst
1	Linda Bear	1	Harry Musselman	23	Judy Traup
1	Jeanette Bomberger	1	Nancy Myers	3	Pamela Urban
1	Donna Dumeyer	1	Lisa Nelson	26	Megan Landis
1	Bunny Emmons	1	Donna Pfautz	27	Pastor JMe
1	Bill Flood	1	Kelsey Pfautz	31	Aimee Censier
1	Barb Gerke	1	Daniel Rainar		
1	Diane Gerlach	1	Catherine Reider		
1	Gloria Grube	3	Betty Stoner		
1	Steve Haun	4	Burnell Hostetter		
		5	Allie Provanzo		
		8	Sarah McCullough		
			Matthew McCullough		



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5	Nathan & Danielle Myers (14th)
20	Bill & Julia Grove (53rd)
20	Doug & Connie Grow (53rd)
24	D.J. & Deb Korns (29th)
28	Dave & Dottie Wauls (48th)



Church Staff

The Rev. Janice Marie E. Lowden, Pastor, email: pastorjme@comcast.net
Christopher P. Reinford, CYF Ministry Director, email: chrisreinford@comcast.net
Dennis Dezort, Director of Music & Worship Arts, email: dezort@comcast.net
Diane Gerlach, Ministry Assistant, email: dlsgerlach@comcast.net
Anne Rankin, Parish Administrator, email: zionluth@comcast.net
Marie Adams, Parish Secretary, email: marie_adams@comcast.net
Brian Bourassa, Sexton (AM)
Tom Miller, Sexton (PM)

Church Council

(Voting Members)

Jon Wright, President, I.T.
Doug Rhoads, Vice President
Deb Overly, Outreach
Birgitte Chapman, Christian Ed
Dave Dumeyer, In-Reach
John Hinkle, Ministry Support
Kim Paternoster, Worship
Cameron Thompson, Youth

(Nonvoting Members)

Ron Crawford, Financial Secretary
Phil Houseal, Assistant Financial Secretary
John Hay, Treasurer
Lisa Nelson, Assistant Treasurer

Ministry Team Chairs

Judy Traup, Care Ministry
Chris Reinford, Christian Ed
John Hay, Finance
Jon Wright, IT
Brenda Stover, Personnel
Jere Grube, Property
Darrell Gerke, Stewardship
Sue Wise, Worship & Music
Chris Reinford, ZYM
Liz Crum, Parish Fellowship
Dolly Overly, Prayer Team
Melodie Dearolf, Social Outreach

Nursery School Board & Staff

Mary Hetrick
Julia Grove
Mitchell Gunzenhauser
Dave Wise, Finance
Pastor JMe Lowden
Alice Carr, Head Teacher
Dianne Moore, Teacher

Hempfield Area Food Pantry Staff

Amos & Mellie Geib, Managers
David Bleil, Board President/Manager
Diane Gerlach, Vice-President
Lynda Sherwood, Secretary
Bruce Gerlach, Treasurer
Lisa Bernhard, Assistant Treasurer
Diane Gerlach, Pantry Coordinator

Our purpose is to complete the work assigned to us by our Lord Jesus, to spread the good news about the wonderful grace of God with the Holy Spirit's guidance, and to love all.

February Newsletter Deadline: January 16

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM (Traditional) & 10:30 AM (Contemporary)

Sunday School for all ages: Sundays 9:15-10:15 AM

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM —5 PM