

ZION NEWS

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

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The Ministers of Zion: Every member of the congregation

The Rev. Janice Marie E. Lowden, Pastor

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From the Pastor's Keyboard: Changing the Advent Season to Fit the Culture?

Advent is upon us, and the period of anticipation and growing excitement before the Christmas celebration has begun. As Lutherans, keeping Advent as a special time has become almost impossible. Christmas decorations are already up in stores before the Halloween items are removed. Christmas carols are playing and Santa is waiting in his "house" at the shopping mall for your visit before the Thanksgiving leftovers are all eaten. With Black Friday, the Christmas Season has begun in earnest, but in the church we are just lighting the first Advent Wreath candle. Whereas, everywhere we go, Christmas carols and songs are playing, we typically don't start singing these lovely hymns in church until just before December 25th. There never seems to be enough time to sing all the beautiful Christmas hymns we love at church.

Some church leaders are suggesting that Christians re-claim Advent by starting the season earlier. There's a movement across denominations to rearrange the Church Calendar in order to begin the Advent season, its music and its message two weeks earlier. Therefore, on the Sunday that we would typically be lighting the third Advent wreath candle, Christmas hymns would be introduced. This extends our singing of Christmas music for two extra Sundays before the celebration of Jesus' birth in addition to the Sundays up until the celebration of the Epiphany on January 6th. As I often remind you, there are actually 12 days of Christmas! With this new Advent Season proposal, we'd be singing Christmas carols for four weeks instead of merely two! (Cont'd on pg. 2)

Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God

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♦ From the Pastor (Cont'd from pg. 1)

What do you think about this idea? For more information about this discussion about Advent, I've provided a couple of links here and on our website:

<http://umcworship.blogspot.com/2014/07/celebrate-advent-and-christmas-season.html>

<http://theadventproject.org/rationale.htm>

For your celebration of the Advent season with your family, here's a link to a family devotional series for the lighting of an Advent Wreath:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/advent-devotional-guide-preparing-for-the-coming-of-christ/>

There is, also, an Advent Devotions document on our website from the ELCA. These are written by Bishop Eaton and other Lutheran leaders. It's in .PDF format, so you can print it for your use at home.

Have a blessed Advent season and a joy-filled Christmas celebration!

Zion Website is Evolving!

Check out the "new" Zion website (www.zionhempfield.net) for opportunities to get involved in online bible study, personal and family faith formation activities, and lots of interesting information and resources. Ministry pages have been updated and a new "Safe Church" page has been added. There's now a link to a new ZYM website that is filled with information and activities for our youth and their parents.

Sunday Servants Training for Ushers, Greeters, Lay Assistants, & Communion Assistants

When? Saturday, December 12, 9:30 AM

Where? In the Sanctuary

In order to insure that Sunday morning services flow smoothly and are focused on worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, it's important that all the worship leaders and assistants know their responsibilities and are well prepared. Did you sign up on your Connection Card to be a Sunday morning Greeter, Usher, Lay Assistant, or Communion Assistant? Have you been serving in one or more of these Sunday Servant positions for some time, but feel you need a refresher course due to changes in your responsibilities? Come on Saturday, December 12th, at 9:30 AM for Sunday Servants Training. Donuts and coffee/tea will be provided.

♦ Church Council Update *Submitted by Jon Wright*

We are fast approaching the end of what has been a trying year for the Council. Visible accomplishments have been few. One highlight though - in October the Council approved the Child Protection Policy developed over the last 11 months through the Samaritan Safe Church Program. I want to thank Pat Landis, Kim Pater-noster, Pat Brady, Chris Reinford, and Pastor JMe for their help in getting this policy together. We are slowly implementing some facets of the policy, but the actual effective date is Jan. 01, 2016. The policy will be posted on the Zion website and there will be at least one hard copy available in the church building as well. On November 14th there were about 20 members and staff members that attended a training session at Highland Presbyterian Church. I'll be blunt and offer my opinion; this is not enough volunteers to move forward with our children and youth programs. On a positive side there are more members that have received their clearances but haven't yet completed the necessary paperwork in order to be an Approved Adult. Additional training sessions will be scheduled, but at this time we don't know the date or time.

It is the responsibility of all members to (1) be aware of a potentially unsafe situation and bring it to the attention of a staff or Council member, and (2) to not place your children in a potentially unsafe situation. I'll give you a real life example. My sister-in-law attended a church in Virginia where everyone felt safe and knew each other. One Sunday morning a little girl went to the restroom on her own. When she didn't return the parents, ushers and others went looking for her. It turned out that a man had entered the church and hid until the service started. The little girl was abducted by the man, out of sight of anyone else in the congregation.

The large part of our Council meetings are spent discussing two topics; finances and property. We've mentioned our financial situation several times this year. We expect to finish 2015 with a cash balance of approximately \$4000. For the last 5 years our beginning cash balance has been as follows:

- ♦ 2011 - \$26,837
- ♦ 2012 - \$41,584
- ♦ 2013 - \$70,303
- ♦ 2014 - \$49,716
- ♦ 2015 - \$33,326

Since 2013 we have trended down. This year we needed \$20,000 from the interest in the endowment fund to meet expenses and have approximately \$34,000 of interest remaining. At the current rate that we are going we will need to begin drawing down the principal in the next year or so. A congregational vote is required in order for the Council to do so.

The Cash Flow Summary that Finance provides each month is an eye-opener. There are three accounts that are tracked by our Finance Team; Thrivent, Friends in Need, and ZYM Project. The Thrivent Fund reflects the dollars given to Zion from Thrivent. In reality, all of the funds for these projects reside in the same bank account which is our General Fund. The summary from the end of October shows that there should be a total of \$49142.69 available in these three accounts. In reality, the cash balance in the General Fund is \$917.73. This means that if requests were received for all of the money from the three accounts we would need to pull \$48, 224.96 from the Endowment Fund. Since we only have \$34K in interest available the remainder would need to come from principal. In other words, our expenses have exceeded our offerings for quite some time.

(Cont'd on pg. 4)

(Cont'd from pg. 3)

Some of us have been approached about the lack of progress with the information gathered in the Discernment Process, specifically around some type of building project. Back in the late Spring/early Summer Doug Rhoads, the Council Vice-President, and I met with a group of past Presidents of the Congregation. The discussion centered on our building and what if anything can be done to modernize and expand the functionality, as well as major renovations including knocking down the Social Hall area and refactoring the space. There was good conversation, we heard some interesting ideas, but as often happens life got in the way. Doug's and my schedule did not allow for us to concentrate on moving this forward, and maybe part of it was an uncertainty on our part that this was best for the congregation. Doug has put a team together and will be meeting with them in December to formulate a plan. One of the roadblocks that we consistently encounter is the amount of maintenance required to our facility. The Property Team, and I can't thank them enough for all their work, has been dealing with a water issue in the basement that just doesn't want to be resolved. We had the basement tested for mold and the test results were positive for mold and we needed to eradicate it. Complete Restorations took care of this for us but then a problem with a boiler valve caused the basement to flood. Insurance covered the cleanup and removal of the floor tiles, but we still have a basement area that cannot be used. Water continues to seep in from the walls, and until this is taken care of we cannot refurbish the basement so that it can be used by groups from our church or by outside organizations. This issue must be resolved, for safety as well as structural reasons.

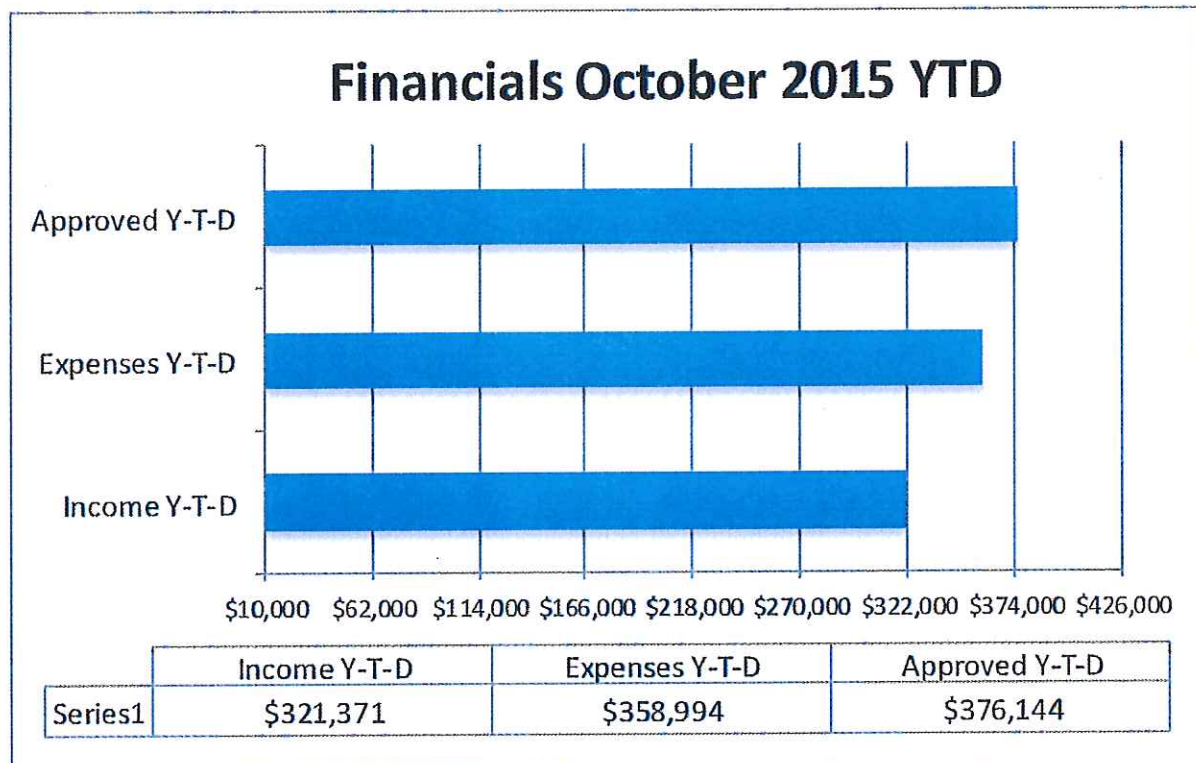
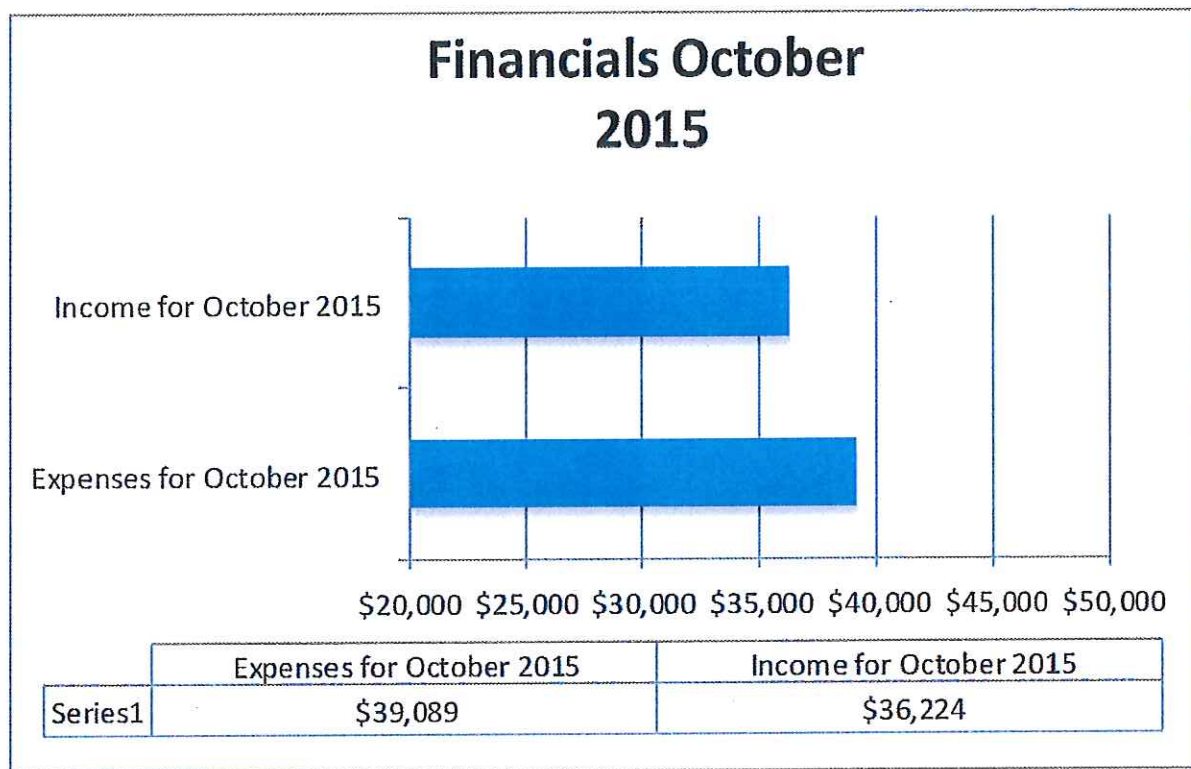
We must move forward and continue with the ministries that are so vital to our community. The Food Pantry is located in our facility and such an important resource for those in need. Our Community Meal remains strong and engages so many organizations from our community. May 2016 will mark the end of the Zion Nursery School and we will celebrate the many years that this ministry has served not only children in our congregation, but those in the surrounding area. But as one ministry fades away another rises. The Kids' Club that Chris Reinford has started with the help of several of our members is growing and reaching into the community.

Some members have asked if the Council has considered a merger, and what the Synod's stance is regarding mergers. I think that Bishop Dunlop made it clear in his closing remarks at the Synod Assembly that fully supports the unification of congregations. There has been some discussion in the Council meetings about this, but it was high level and not something that we've focused on. If the financial situation doesn't improve, and it is shown that renovation or continued maintenance is not sustainable then it may be a path the next Council needs to investigate.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter article, it has been a trying year, but I am humbled my fellow Council Representatives have elected me to serve as your President for the last two years. I need to thank all of the Council for their hard work. There are four very capable individuals that will be joining the Council next year; Scott Hetrick, Joel Janisewski, Brenda Stover, and Anna Benedict. Birgitte Chapman, Delaney Klepper, Joe Auchey, and I will be leaving the Council on December 31st and I must thank them for their service. Doug Rhoads, you have been invaluable as Vice-President for these two years and I thank you. Pastor JMe, thank you for helping us to hold it all together. And Anne, thank you for all the email reminders, for all of the tasks that you do without complaining, and for putting together those monthly Council Packets!

Merry Christmas and Peace to all!

♦ Financial Figures (October)



**The August income includes \$10,000 taken from the Endowment funds cover expenses and the YTD income includes \$20,000 taken from the Endowment to cover expenses.*

♦ Book Discussion, Advent Family Night

Join the Discussion!



New Facebook Group: “What Are You Reading? Book Discussion” with PJ

Would you like to take part in an online book discussion? Last month, Pastor JMe wrote that she has been reading books, both fiction and nonfiction, that she thinks would be fun to discuss with others. The plan for starting in November didn't come to fruition, but now, a Facebook Group is up and running.

Our first book will be a relatively light one: *The Martian*, by Andy Weir. Whether you've seen the movie or not, the book is a must read. Join our Facebook Group: “What Are You Reading? Book Discussion” for some interesting conversation about this book. Just go to your own Facebook “Groups” section and search for “What Are You Reading? Book Discussion” to join the conversation. Each week, starting Nov. 30th, we will focus on a portion of the book and several questions as a launching point for discussion. Of course, anyone may join in the fun at any time! If you have a book suggestion, feel free to let Pastor JMe know.



ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT **December 16**

Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM and the Advent program will begin at 6 PM. We will sing carols and do a Christmas craft for the whole family to enjoy together!

Kids' Club will resume in January on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month. Dinner for the entire family will begin at 5:30 PM and the activities for the kids will be from 6 - 7 PM.

ISAAC'S EAT-OUT NIGHT

December 9

Join us on Wednesday, 12/9, to raise money for ZYM's mission trip this summer. Bring the fundraiser flyer (to be distributed on 12/6) from 5-9 PM. Isaac's will donate 25% of your dinner total to ZYM!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 13

Join ZYM in Christmas Caroling to our church members who are shut-in or in nursing homes as a way to help bring some holiday cheer this season. We will meet at the church at 3 PM.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 27

Our annual Christmas party will be held in the ZYM room at 5 PM on the 27th. For this party, everyone should bring a \$10 gift that will be exchanged during a game! Also, a prize will be awarded to whomever wears the "BEST" Christmas sweater! Another gift will be given to the person who brings the most friends (your friends will receive a gift too!)

WINTERFEST

January 1 - 3

The senior high youth and young adults will have fun at the Synod's Winterfest at the Lancaster Host Resort! The theme will be "Community." The cost per person is \$80. Deadline to register is Sunday, December 13. Payment is due by December 20.

SNOWTUBING

January 31

We will be going snowtubing at Iron Valley Tubing in Lebanon. 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.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 9

ZYM will host a pancake supper to celebrate Shrove ("Fat") Tuesday. This will benefit our youth ministry programs. Come hungry!

DECEMBER

6 H2H @ 6 PM
13 Christmas Caroling @ 3 PM
20 H2H @ 6 PM
27 Christmas Party

JANUARY

1-3 Winterfest 2016
3 H2H @ 6 PM
10 H2H Guide Lunch @ 12 PM
ZYM @ 6 PM
17 H2H Parent/Youth Event @ 6 PM
24 ZYM @ 6 PM
31 Snowtubing @ 1 PM

FEBRUARY

7 Flag Football @ 3 PM
Superbowl party @ 6 PM
9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
12-13 30-hour Famine
14 H2H @ 6 PM
21 ZYM @ 6 PM
28 H2H @ 6 PM

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

February 7

We will be playing our own Flag Football game at 3 PM in the Cooper House backyard. After that, we will watch the Superbowl and eat pizza and wings, beginning at 6 PM. A location has not yet been decided; if you will host this event, please let Chris know!

SPONSORSHIP FUNDRAISER

February 14

We will begin our Sponsorship Fundraiser in February! There will be a large board with envelopes in the Narthex. The envelopes will be marked with dollar amounts and names of youth who will be going on the mission trip this summer. You are invited to "sponsor" the youth with any amount you would like. Chose the envelope with the amount you'd like to sponsor.

♦ Sunday Scholars Class Submitted by Dave Dumeyer

The Adult Parlor Class, also known as the Sunday Scholars, recently completed the video series on the ministry, life and execution of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor whose faith in GOD's calling us into action and His grace in forgiving us if we make mistakes in the process, was part of the failed plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. The discussion over how we follow GOD and when we know GOD is calling us provided some interesting discussion.

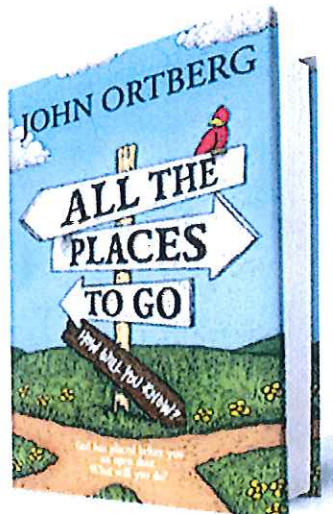
On December 29, the class will begin a new video series, *All the Places To Go*, by Pastor John Ortberg. A description of the book upon which the video is based reads:

"Very rarely in the Bible does God command someone to "Stay." He opens a door, and then he invites us to walk through it—into the unknown. And how we choose to respond will ultimately determine the life we will lead and the person we will become. In fact, to fail to embrace the open door is to miss the work God has made for us to do.

In *All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know?*, bestselling author John Ortberg opens our eyes to the countless doors God places before us every day, teaches us how to recognize them, and gives us the encouragement to step out in faith and embrace all of the extraordinary opportunities that await.

So go ahead—walk through that door. You just might do something that lasts for eternity."

The series last for four weeks through the Advent season and into the new year. If you have an interest in a light-hearted look at how we make choices in our lives, come...join us.



◆ Christmas Eve Poinsettias, Women of Zion

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

Sponsors are needed for poinsettias, door wreaths, candles, and other decorations that will be used around the church for Christmas Eve Services. Sponsorships are \$10 and may be in honor or memory of someone. Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 13th. Please complete the form below.

I wish to help sponsor decorations for Christmas Eve; enclosed is

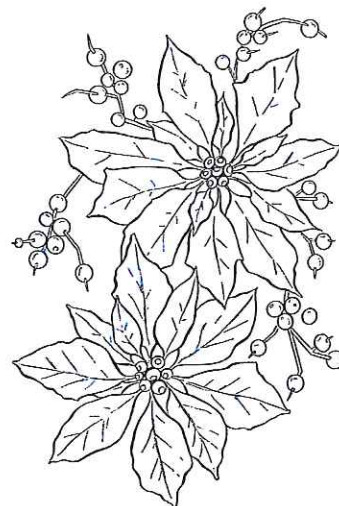
In honor of

In memory of

Name of Sponsor

Please make checks payable to: Zion Lutheran Church and place in mail basket in the Narthex or mail to 85 E. Brandt Blvd., Landisville, PA 17538.

We ask that you please take your decorations after the services on December 27th. Any remaining decorations after the 28^h will be handed out to the Food Pantry clients.



WOMEN OF ZION

submitted by Millie Gundel

Women! Mark your calendars! Come and join in our ongoing service ministries! You are guaranteed "fun and fellowship" as we work together to help others! Invite someone to come with you!

⇒ Fill **Christmas Gift Bags** for the Food Pantry children-Saturday, December 5 at 9:00 AM in the social room. This is an activity for both men and women!

⇒ **Yarn Ministry** (prayer shawls, chemo hats, preemie hats)- Sundays, Dec. 6 & 20 and Jan. 3 & 17 at 1:00 PM in the Parlor

⇒ **Comforter Ministry** (quilts, blankets)- Mondays, Dec. 7 & Jan. 4 at 9:00 AM in the Social Room



♦ **Prayer Team** *Submitted by Dolly Overly*

7 Prayers of Release

Letting go of negative emotions can be a reality through prayer.

by Bob Hostetler of Guideposts Magazine –
October 20, 2015

1. To release anger, resentment and bitterness

God, hear me and answer me. You know I am troubled by thoughts and feelings of anger, resentment and bitterness. You also know why. And You know how deep the hurt goes and how long I have lived with it. But I don't want to live with it any longer. I don't want to be an angry, resentful and bitter person. With Your help, I release my anger into Your hands. I surrender my resentment. I let go of my bitterness. Help me to keep letting go and release these toxic emotions as often as they try to return.

2. To release a loved one

Lord God, I release _____ into your care. You know all my love and concern for (him/her). I know that You share that love and concern, so I release (him/her) into Your hands. Help me to find healthy and helpful ways to love and care and pray for (him / her), even as I learn to trust You to see all I cannot see and do what I cannot do.

3. To release fear

Father, I give my fear to You. I have been crippled and poisoned by fear for too long. I reject it. I release it. I choose faith instead of fear, believing in Your good plans for me. I choose love instead of fear, trusting that Your "perfect love" will cast out all fear (1 John 4:18). I choose Your light and truth instead of fear, accepting Your Word, which says I "need not fear terror that stalks in the night, the arrow that flies in the day, plague that strikes in the darkness, or calamity that destroys at noon," because you are with me (Psalm 91:5-6, ISV).

4. To release the illusion of control

Mighty God, for too long I have wanted to be in control, tried to be in control and cherished the illusion that I am in control. I release myself and my illusions into

Your hands. By Your grace, I surrender my need to feel in control, and embrace the truth that You are in control and that I can control only my inner life and not my outward circumstances—and certainly not other people. Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot control, courage to change the few things I can (my thoughts and actions) and wisdom to know the difference.

5. To release an attitude of victimhood

Lord, with Your help, I release all the negative thoughts, feelings and impressions that lead to an attitude of victimhood in my life. I turn from it. I refuse to be a victim any longer. I choose to rely and live on the truth of Your Word that says I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37) rather than a victim, through the One who loves me and gave Himself for me. Let me live a victorious life from this moment on instead of entertaining any thoughts of victimhood.

6. To release dependency

Father, I repent and renounce and release the dependency by which I've lived until now. Whatever the roots—self-doubt, self-hatred, self-loathing, etc.—I release the sense that I need anything or anyone but You and Your truth to get me through the day and through this life. Remind me, moment by moment, that my God will meet all my needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

7. To release shame

God, Your Word says there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set [me] free" (Romans 8:1, NIV). I agree with Your Word and so release all the shame I have felt because of the lies I've believed about myself. I choose to believe what You say about me and not what others say—not even what I have said about myself. I accept that I am Your "work of art," "created in Christ Jesus to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV) and trust You to help me, moment by moment, to live in that reality. 10

♦ Music Happenings

What is a Taize Service?

It is an informal half hour of peace in your hectic, busy life. **There is music**...you may sing along, hum or just listen. **There is prayer**...it is short and meant to focus your thoughts. **There is scripture**...listen to the Word as you relax. **There is a time of silence**...a few moments to "just be." **All of this in one half hour!** *A wonderful island of solitude in your day!*

The next service will be Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

Questions? Contact Jean Pretz (945-9036) or Dennis (203-9863).

"WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?!?"

A Move Away from a "Food Court" Model of Worship on November 11 | in Unified Worship | by Kenny Lamm

There is a move of God across churches around our nation that is causing a shift from a "food court" model of worship to a unified style of worship. In the past, many of our churches, for well-thought-through pragmatic reasons, decided to offer two or more styles of worship, seeking to attract people who like a particular kind of music. This model is based on personal preferences.

The overall concern was that we could not draw young people with traditional styles of worship, and our older people would leave if we transition our services to a more contemporary model. The result has often been ageism, segregation and division of the body. In many cases, its implementation has severely divided the church rather than uniting it in what should be one of the most unifying practices of the church—corporate worship. In fact, biblical teaching points to us keeping the generations together in worship (1 Timothy 5:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:12, Psalm 145:4, John 17).

Many churches that have gone down this divisive road are now crying out for unity. A prevailing thought that millennials want a high production, edgy worship service has been proven wrong by current research and gives every church a more hopeful future.

Here's what I have found. It's important to help people understand a biblical, cultural and missional understanding of worship with people sitting around tables in discussion groups. Explore with them the difference in essentials and nonessentials in worship. Present the concept of unified, multi-generational, multi-ethnic worship to them. As people see what should be in worship and lay that beside the reality of worship in their own church, the Holy Spirit begins to work in lives to bring alignment. I have seen this occur in many churches.

I'm not condemning churches that offer several choices, but I do want all to truly examine why they are doing this and determine if it is God's choice for them. For some, I truly believe this is the only way they can remain missional within their circumstances.

♦ Community Meal *Submitted by Linda Bear*

Our Zion Church family said, "Yes!" We said, "Yes" to purchasing, preparing, and serving a community meal five times a year at Zion in the months of February, April, June, October and December of 2016. Our meals will be served on the second Thursday of each of these months at 5:30 PM. We will be following a similar format to the one used for serving our meals at Christ Lutheran by serving the same meal on each of those five occasions. This helps us to keep our plans streamlined and consistent and straight forward while we do our best to serve a nutritious and delicious meal to our friends in our surrounding communities.

After meeting with Joanne Grim, and Connie Alsedek to make a few tweaks to our overall plan, we now offer you many opportunities to say, "Yes, I will gladly serve for you, Lord!"

Please read and carefully consider the job opportunities for this ministry, and contact Connie Alsedek by phone (717-492-4045) or email (conia@comcast.net) to let her know in which opportunities you may be interested. In particular, we need to get our February crew signed up and ready to serve.

Zion's Community Meal Volunteer Job Descriptions

(Meals will be served on the second Thursday of February, April, June, October and December of 2016)

Food Pick Up and Delivery - Two volunteers are needed to pick up potatoes, sour cream, butter, green beans, fruit cocktail and dinner rolls at Darrenkamps Market in Mount Joy, PA and the ham loaf at Wengers in Elizabethtown, PA, and then deliver them to the Zion's kitchen the **second Wednesday of each of the months listed above**. All the food is

preordered. No shopping involved. **This is approximately a 1 1/2 hour commitment.**

Food Prep/Baking/Cooking - Four to six volunteers are needed to wash and wrap the potatoes, put the ham loaf in the baking pans, and put the green beans into an electric roaster along with the putting the ham and potatoes into the oven. **This is approximately an hour commitment between 1:00 -2:00 PM on the day of the meal.**

Set Up/Prep - Two volunteers are needed to dish out the fruit cocktail, sour cream, and butter and check on the ham, potatoes, and green beans. **This is approximately a thirty minute commitment between 4:30-5:00 PM on the day of the meal.**

Cake Bakers - Six volunteers are needed to each bake one cake to serve for dessert on the day of meal. This is approximately a one hour commitment. Completed cakes can be delivered to the church kitchen the Wednesday night before the meal or the day of the meal. The church is usually open between 7-9:00 PM (no guarantees) and during the day. Cakes can be delivered to the church office during the day also.

Serving/Clean Up - Eight volunteers are needed to serve and clean up the kitchen on the day of meal. Two volunteers are needed to plate the meals, and six volunteers are needed to serve the meals to guests. (Three volunteers to carry the trays and three volunteers to serve the plates of food.) All these volunteers are needed to clean and sanitize the tables, do the dishes, and generally clean up the kitchen area. **This is approximately a 1 1/2 hour time commitment from 5:00-6:30 PM.**

Please consider volunteering for one or more of these positions. This is a wonderful ministry for volunteers of all ages!

♦ Within The Wider Church

A letter of thanks from the Bishop, Synod VP, & Director of Evangelical Mission (ELCA)

Thank you for your Mission Support that undergirds all we do together as church. You know, to succeed in anything, we need guiding principles that give us focus, direction, purpose, and mission. Otherwise we just spin our wheels. To shape our lives and ministry together in the ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton has given us four key principles:

1. We are **church**.
2. We are **Lutheran**.
3. We are **church for the sake of the world**.

Each principle points us to an essential focus, a primary purpose and mission we undertake as children of God and followers of Jesus.

1. As the **church**, we gather to worship our crucified and risen Lord.
2. As **Lutherans**, we celebrate the centrality of God's love and mercy.
3. As **church together**, we are never alone, but always part of something stronger and greater.
4. As **church for the sake of the world**, all we are, and all we do, express love of God and love of neighbor as ourselves.

Your mission Support helps us to live out these principles daily and deed across three interdependent expressions of the ELCA: congregations, synod, and churchwide ministry.

Thank you for your partnership in the mission that Our Lord has given us. Your participation enables us to feed the hungry as we have been fed by Christ — not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well.

Thank you for your contributions that energize our ministry. Your Mission Support provides the financial energy that keeps us moving — as church, as Lutheran church, as church together, and as church for the sake of the world.

Your Fellow Servants in Christ,

James S. Dunlop
Bishop

Lucinda L. Bringman
Synod Vice President

Richard E. T. Jorgensen
*Director of Evangelical
Mission, ELCA*

♦ Food Pantry *Submitted by Diane Gerlach*



In October, the pantry served 173 families which included 254 children, 356 adults, and 82 seniors for a total of 692 people served. **We continue to register new families each month.....in October we registered 11 new families.** Currently, the pantry has registered over 250 families who are eligible to receive food once a week.

During the month of October Zion members donated 150 pounds of food. Thank you for your food donations and your continued financial contributions to the pantry. Your financial contributions are used to purchase food items at the Central Penn Food Bank and "on sale" items at various grocery stores in the area.

During the month of October....**Darrenkamps of Mount Joy** donated 1,917 pounds of fresh produce to the pantry; **Target in Lititz** donated 1,596 pounds of fresh produce and bakery items; **Weis Markets in Columbia** donated 1,324 pounds of bread and bakery items in August; **Weis Market Stony Battery Road** donated 683 pounds of bread and bakery items. **Penn State Extension** donated 242 pounds of fresh produce. **Other food donated through stores, food drives, individual churches, and private donations** totaled 5,330 pounds of food in October. The pantry purchased 957 pounds of food.



We continue to be blessed with **many volunteers from the Hempfield area and our Hempfield community churches who give their time to the pantry** each Monday and Wednesday as well as additional time as needed. **Seventy three volunteers gave 594 hours during the month of October.** Our clients are very appreciative of the time the volunteers willingly give to serving them with a true servant's heart and a smile! We could not provide this important community service without our volunteers! The pantry has no paid staff.

On November 4, the Board of Directors sponsored an **appreciation luncheon** for our volunteers. Thanks to Marie Adams, Donna Dumeyer, Millie Gundel, Nancy Myers, and Joan Oberrender for serving the luncheon.

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

Cereal, 15 oz. canned fruit, and canned soups continue to be some of the "main" items the pantry can always use!!!

Together we will feed the hungry!

♦ Food Pantry Gift Bags

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR HEMPFIELD AREA FOOD PANTRY CHILDREN

This is a service project by the Women of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Landisville and we are grateful for donations and help from many other Hempfield churches.

Each bag will contain a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste donated by local dentists and a warm hat, most of them handmade by members of Zion and other local churches.

We are collecting donations of other gifts to include in the bags for about 200 children. The gifts should be new and appropriate for infants to age 12.

Our gift bags measure 6x4x12inches, **so large items will not fit!**

Donation suggestions:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| -small toys - (yo yo, jump rope, ball, etc.) | -pocket flashlight |
| -small packs of cookies | -handheld games/puzzles |
| -small books. | -small solar calculators |
| -sippy cups, bath toys. | -small pencil sharpeners |
| -"fat" crayons (for pre-school). | -stretch headbands |
| -small boxes of 8 crayons. | -stretch bracelets |
| -colored markers/pencils | -playdough |

*Gift donations will be collected at Zion through the first week of December
They may be placed in the bin in the front hallway.*

Gift Bags will be filled at Zion Saturday, December 5 at 9 AM. If you are interested in helping to fill the bags, please contact Millie Gundel (898-2313)



♦ Concerts, Lutheran Camping Corp.

Concerts coming up ...

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

31 South Duke Street, Lancaster

www.trinitylanaster.org

717-397-2734

Sunday, January 24, 4 PM: Duo Chiaroscuro "Perfectly Fran(c)k" ...*Pianist Maria Corley and cellist Sara Male team up for a program of chamber music by Cesar Franck, Francois Francoeur, and Frank Bridge.*

Sunday, February 14th, 2-4 PM: Robert Horton "Now 'C' Here" ...*Director of music at Trinity since September 2014, organist, harpsichordist, and pianist, Robert Horton presents a multi-keyboard program of music by Clementi, Couperin, and Chambonnières.*

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

36 Church Street, Rothsville

Sunday, February 14, 3 PM: RoseWind Duo...*Clifford Leaman, Saxophone; Scott Herriung, Marimba. Formed in 2005, the RoseWind Duo has performed at universities and professional conferences throughout the United States and around the world, including Spain, Scotland, France, and China. A native of Brownstown, Dr. Clifford Leaman is Professor of Saxophone & Associate Dean of the School of Music at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Scott Herring is Professor of Percussion at the University of South Carolina, where he directs the school's award-winning percussion ensemble.*

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION EVENTS COMING UP...

December 5: Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm

January 8-10, 2016: Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald*

*** See flyer on the following page about this event**



Kirchenwald Winter Youth Retreat

January 8-10, 2016

For youth in grades 3 through 9



Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates.

To register, visit lutherancamping.org or simply fill out the information below, detach and mail with payment to Lutheran Camping Corporation, P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303. Cost for the retreat is \$135. Please register by December 18, 2015.



2016 Winter Youth Retreat Registration

CAMPER NAME _____ MALE / FEMALE

BIRTH DATE _____ PRESENT GRADE IN SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ EMAIL _____

☐ SEND MY CONFIRMATION MATERIALS BY EMAIL

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ CHURCH _____ CITY _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____ AMOUNT BILLED TO CHURCH \$ _____

SPECIAL NEEDS / CABINMATE / OTHER: _____ [cp]



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303
717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



♦ ChildFund Letter, Holiday Concert

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I am full of joy and happiness to write to you this letter on behalf of your sponsored child, Brenda Alimo, who is at school. I am Econyu Justine, brother, writing to you. Thank you for the nice birthday card you sent to Brenda. She will get it when she comes back for holidays. Thank you for your continuous support that has improved on her education. She is now busy doing her mid-term exams. Thank you for supporting Brenda and the family in general. May God bless you.

ChildFund
Alliance



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

Concert/Desserts

Featuring
Trinity Church Musicians

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Concert – 6:00 PM

Desserts Following The Concert
Sign-up Sheet In Church Narthex
Or
Call 569-1632 For Dessert Reservations

*Freewill Offering Benefits
Music For Everyone
and Trinity Music Ministry*





TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®



**Shopping Event
to benefit**

bridge
of
hope® | Lancaster &
Chester Counties



Saturday, December 5

10am - 2pm

Main Street, Exton

Sunday, December 6

1—5 pm

Rockvale Outlets, Lancaster

Ten Thousand Villages will donate 15% of your purchase totals at these events to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties.

Coping with the Holidays

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have lost someone important in our lives. The loss can be recent or in the distant past, but the feelings of grief are similar across the distance of time. If you are finding that holiday traditions you once anticipated with great joy now leave you with feelings of uncertainty and sadness please know that you are not alone. This time of year is a time many of us spend with loved ones and engage in traditions that can be hard to continue after a loss.

The Pathways Center for Grief & Loss understands the difficulty that surrounds the holidays and offers

special sessions devoted to coping with the holidays that are open to everyone. These sessions help you not only get through the holiday season, but perhaps find positive activities to focus on and ways to honor your loved one during this time of year. We encourage you to join us for one or all of the Coping with the Holidays sessions and attend Light Up A Life. Sessions are provided at no cost, and are offered in Mount Joy, Ephrata, Quarryville, and York.



Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to register.

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS (MOUNT JOY):

Evening Sessions (4)

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Pathways Center for Grief & Loss
4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy

"Where to Begin": Tuesday, November 24

"Planning Ahead": Tuesday, December 8

"Creating a Memory Box": Tuesday, December 15
(This activity is open to children, teens and adults)

"Living for Today": December 22

Afternoon Session (1)

Thursday, December 10, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Pathways Center for Grief & Loss,

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS (EPHRATA):

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Ephrata Cancer Center, 460 N. Reading Road, Ephrata

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS (QUARRYVILLE):

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Quarryville Library, 357 Buck Road, Quarryville

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS (YORK):

Afternoon Session (1)

Tuesday, December 1, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

WellSpan Surgery and Rehabilitation Hospital
(Community Room), Apple Hill Health Campus
55 Monument Road, York

Evening Sessions (3)

6:30- 8:00 p.m.

York Hospital Childbirth & Family Education
(Queensgate Towne Center),
2017 Springwood Road, York.

"Where to Begin" Tuesday, December 8

"Planning Ahead" Tuesday, December 15

"Living for Today" Tuesday, December 22

♦ 2016 Serving Schedule, Thank You, Sympathy, Congrats

2016 Serving Schedules



Many of the serving schedules have been completed for 2016. Please check your mailboxes for your team's schedule so you can mark your home calendar accordingly! *If you have questions or conflicts with a particular date you were scheduled for, please contact your team leader.*



Greeters - Nancy Myers

Acolytes - Amy Thompson

Ushers - Dave Wise

Childcare - Sue Wise

Altar Guild - Donna Dumeyer

Coffee Table Host - Judy Brady

Lay Reader and Communion Assistants - Marie Adams or Anne Rankin

Thank you to all the faithful, who serve Zion on Sunday mornings, we could not do it without our many volunteers.

THANK YOU...

♦ **From Thelma Pearson**

Thank you so much for the birthday cards and for the beautiful yellow rose. I had a very nice birthday. May God bless you and keep you in His care. Love, Thelma

♦ **From Gloria Grube**

Thank you for the outpouring of love and support given to the Grube families upon the death of Weidler. Special thanks to Pastor JMe for all you've done for us.

♦ **Thank you to Marie Adams** who has recently left her position as church secretary to enjoy more time with her retired husband, Joe. Marie was a valuable resource of knowledge for Zion history. She served in her position as a competent assistant for our Parish Administrators for 10 1/2 years. Marie will not be "gone" entirely, though, as she will remain as a volunteer for Zion in various areas as needed. Congratulations and God's blessings to Marie.

SYMPATHY...

...to **Joe Adams** and family on the death of his mother, Mary, on November 18 in Cocoa, Florida.

...to **Nancy Price** and family on the death of her brother, Billy, on November 16.

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to **Matt Propst and Twila Flaud** on the birth of their daughter, Daisy Jane, on November 18.

♦ December Celebrations



1	Amelia Golihew
2	Heather Gronholm
2	Josh Styer
2	Kaylee Thompson
3	Kim Contino
4	Tracie Andrew
4	Bryce Burfete
4	Finn Gunzenhauser
6	Joseph Gorlaski
6	Jaden Myers
7	Bradley Green

8	Ron Crawford
10	Tracy Inngersoll
10	Philip Smeltz
11	Bill Flood
11	Brad Ingersoll
12	Melodie Dearolf
12	Curt Rogers
13	Nina Laliberte
13	Sarah Thompson
14	Christian Benedict
15	Nathan Bear
15	Kaylyn Ringso
15	Ted Symonds
17	Travis Jackson
18	Nate Deibler
18	Diane Ramer
18	Nancy Smith
20	Cameron Reed

20	Brenda Stover
21	Todd Reed
23	Linda Bear
23	Don Wierschke
24	Holly Hoover
24	Sue Wise
25	Mary Gerlach
25	Dave Wauls
26	Alexander Groff
27	Connor Donnan
28	Judy Brady
28	Deb Grube
28	Floyd Weidler
29	Steve Haun
29	Laura Schaeffer
30	Ariana Jackson
30	Joan Mays

HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

1	Kevin Rickert
3	Chase Richards
3	Jason Richards
4	Cher Callahan
5	Mary Hetrick
9	Zachary Houseal
9	Deb Long
10	Katie Donell
10	Mary Jane Unger
11	Joan Hostetter
11	Erica (Haun) Kearon

12	Amanda Grube
12	Sue Hindes
13	Joseph Hindes
13	Lois Peterson
14	Ava Gronholm
14	Soren Gronholm
14	Riley Hertzog
16	Hailee Small
17	Tracy Ingersoll
18	Sara Hoover
18	Sam Myers
20	Carolyn Klinger
22	Cathy Benedict

22	Marty Gerlach
22	Mary Gerlach
23	Kara Barr
23	Brett Houseal
24	Aarin Deibler
24	Madison McCloskey
25	Devin Leibley
28	Todd Benedict
28	Doug Searle
30	Emma Baumgardner
30	Pat Landis

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5	Rich & Angela Sieglitz (2nd)
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♦ January Celebrations



1	Collin Donnan
1	Darlene Smeltz
2	Melissa Ingersoll
3	Soren Gronholm
3	Sarah Laliberte
3	Eric Searle
5	Pam Gunzenhauser
5	Kelsey Pfautz
6	Randy Miller
7	Dianne Coons
9	Mallory Trupe
11	Dave Klepper

12	Meagan Bilbrough
12	Nathan Myers
12	Patrick Rogers
13	Julia Grove
15	Jason Shirk
16	Adelyn Seyfried
17	Al Ramer
19	Lisa Bernhard
19	Dylan Gromen
20	Glen Anderson
20	Jayann Leibley
20	Jessica Wise
22	Emma Baumgardner
22	Dolly Overly
25	Anna Benedict
25	Phyllis Stoner
26	Jonathan Youssef
27	Millie Gundel
28	Zachary Morgan

HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

1	Dave Albin
1	Al Alsedek
1	Jim Bear
1	Linda Bear
1	Jeanette Bomberger
1	Donna Dumeyer
1	Bunny Emmons
1	Bill Flood
1	Barb Gerke
1	Diane Gerlach

1	Gloria Grube
1	Steve Haun
1	Phil Houseal
1	Joan Mays
1	Nancy Myers
1	Lisa Nelson
1	Donna Pfautz
1	Kelsey Pfautz
1	Daniel Rainar
1	Catherine Reider
1	Betty Stoner
3	Burnell Hostetter
4	Allie Provanzo

5	Cameron Hertzog
5	Sarah McCullough
8	Matthew McCullough
10	Emma Golihef
21	Ty Myers
23	Justin Propst
23	Judy Traup
23	Pamela Urban
26	Megan Landis
27	Pastor JMe
27	Pam Gunzenhauser
31	Aimee Censier

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5	Nathan & Danielle Myers (15th)
20	Bill & Julia Grove (54th)
20	Doug & Connie Grow (54th)
21	Jason & Monica Traup (24th)
24	D.J. & Deb Korn (30th)
28	Dave & Dottie Wauls (49th)



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
Brian Bourassa, Sexton (AM)
Tom Miller, Sexton (PM)

Church Council

(Voting Members)

Jon Wright, President
Doug Rhoads, Vice President
Deb Overly (Outreach)
Birgitte Chapman (Christian Formation)
Ed Blough (Worship)
John Hinkle (Ministry Support)
Scott Crum (In-Reach)
Delaney Klepper (ZYM)

(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
Judy Nichols, Secretary
Lisa Bernhard, 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 15

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

Sunday School For All Ages: 9:15 AM

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