



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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“Connecting with God, Connecting with Others, Connecting others with God”

## ZION NEWS

Issue 2: March 2016

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

One Sunday, when I was free from other church responsibilities, I attended the Presbyterian church of one of my friends. My friend was being installed as a Deacon in her congregation, so I wanted to show my support for her new ministry responsibility. I was, also, interested in the experience of a Sunday service in a church with different worship traditions.

I had no trouble following the structure of the service. Even the hymns we sang were familiar. The one part of the worship service that surprised me was the recitation of the Ten Commandments before the sermon was preached. Later, I asked my friend about this, and she told me that, at her church, there were periods of the year that the congregation recited the Ten Commandments every Sunday.

I don't remember ever reciting the Ten Commandments during Lutheran worship. The only time that the Decalogue is included in worship is when the appointed Old Testament reading for the day is from Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5. Recitation of the commandments is usually relegated to the Faith Formation (or Christian Education) activities of the congregation. Students in Sunday School or the Confirmation Program or adults desiring to affirm their Christian faith are usually required to know and recite the Decalogue.

Typically, during the Church Year and both in education and worship, more emphasis is placed on the "Greatest Commandment" as stated by Jesus:

*"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'  
<sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor  
as yourself.'<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Mat 22:37-40 NRS)*

These words don't supersede the Ten Commandments, they summarize them.

As laws given in the "Old" Testament (I prefer say "Hebrew Scriptures"), the commandments were directed to the Jews. Although Christianity has roots in Judaism, we interpret the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures through the lens of faith in Jesus Christ, the true Messiah and Son of God. With Jesus, we are told that these laws are not abolished, but fulfilled (see Mat. 5:17). Those who follow Jesus are expected to follow the law of God as given in the Decalogue and as interpreted through Jesus' life and teaching. By knowing and living the Ten Words, we have a guide for life in the light and truth of Jesus.

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels expand upon the words of the Decalogue and give them weight in ways that challenged the Jewish teachers of the law at that time. From his words came even fuller explanation of God's intent for the lives and actions of God's people in their relationship with God and with one another. Even more, Jesus' words remind us that there is no way that, as humans, we are unable to follow these commandments perfectly. The perfect one, Jesus Christ, God in human form, was willing to take all our imperfections, all the sins of the world, on himself and die with them, so that we are freed from the condemnation to death and hell that is rightfully ours as sinful humanity.

These Ten Words are means to point out our sinfulness before God, but, more important, they point us to, indeed, throw us into the embrace of the immeasurable grace of God in Jesus Christ. For, we are justified by God's grace through our faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works of the law. Therefore, the Ten Commandments are a gift from a loving, forgiving, grace-filled God who desires to teach us how to live lives that are not only pleasing in God's sight but also free of fear, full, satisfying, peace-filled, and loving towards God and towards others.

Is it important to know the Ten Commandments? Yes! Taking these Ten Words to heart will help a person in all decisions, all situations in life. Jesus, while in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, drew from his knowledge of the commandments when he responded, "'It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" (Luke 4:8 NRS) This is based on the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods."

During the season of Lent this year, we are focusing on the Ten Commandments both in worship and in faith formation. The H2H Confirmation students will attend a weekend retreat Marcy 18-19 focused on the commandments. An adult bible study of the Ten Commandments as explained in *Luther's Large Catechism* is

being held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. As Martin Luther taught, it's important that children, youth and adults are well versed in these words of God that form a foundation for our lives of faith.

When children are baptized, their parents are admonished to "teach them [their children] the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. It is the responsibility of Christian parents to teach and to model faithfulness to God's Word by bringing their children to worship, ensuring that they take part in faith formation activities both at church and at home, and encouraging their relationships with Jesus and with their sisters and brothers in the congregation or faith community.

It's the responsibility of the congregation and its members to pray for families, to support parents in their ministry of Christian parenting and to provide the faith formation necessary for parents, indeed all adults and children to continue to mature in their faith throughout their lives. Learning or reviewing the Ten Commandments as a congregation during this season of Lent is one way that we at Zion are fulfilling our Christian responsibilities as a community.

More about the Ten Commandments can be found in this newsletter and on the Zion website.

### **The Ten Commandments: The Ten Words of God for our Lives**

Over 3,000 years ago, Moses was given "The Law" by God at Mount Sinai. These "Ten Commandments" were a simple list of God's desires for the faith lives of the Hebrew people whom God had rescued from slavery in Egypt. They were given to a freed people in order to help them live in freedom from slavery to all the forces that would draw them from the covenant relationship that God had established with them. In return, the Hebrew people were to understand these commandments to be "Ten Words" of a powerful yet also gracious and loving God.

The Ten Commandments are listed in Exodus 20:3-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7-21. There is no actual title given to these commandments in the books in which they appear; however, the Hebrew phrase "aseret had'varim," translated "ten words," is used to describe them. The numeral *ten* represents perfection. In Greek, they are known as the *Decalogue* (literally, "ten words").

There was no numbering provided in the ancient texts. As a result, over thousands of years, multiple versions of these commandments have been taught. Christian denominations differ in the versions they use. For instance, what Lutherans and Roman Catholics state as the first commandment is listed as two separate commandments in the Anglican/Reformed/Evangelical churches. Many Christian denominations list only one commandment (the Tenth) dealing with coveting; whereas, Lutherans have two commandments concerned with coveting.

Even the order of the commandments tends to vary. In Deuteronomy, the commandment against coveting your neighbor's wife comes before the one against coveting his house and other possessions. In Exodus, the order is reversed, with "house" being listed first and "wife" and other possessions listed second in the order of what not to covet.

Does the numbering matter, or is the content more important? Knowing and living in light of the Ten Commandments requires understanding the content and what these ten words mean for our lives. Whether you learn them one way or another doesn't matter. That you know them and follow them is what makes a difference for your life.

The following is the version of the Ten Commandments that we are focusing on during the season of Lent:

#### **I am the Lord your God...**

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

(From *Luther's Small Catechism*, translated by Timothy J. Wengert, Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, 2008.)

## **From the Council President** *Submitted by John F. Hinkle Jr.*

As your new planning council president, I wish to thank you, members of the congregation and the council, for entrusting me with the responsibility of this office and the obligation of discharging the duties that are necessary to carry out the business of the church.

On behalf of the council, I would also like to thank our past president, Jon Wright, for his dedicated service to Zion throughout the past several years.

We have an array of challenges before us ranging from our present financial concerns to our future considerations that relate to our short term and long term plans. Our planning council will be looking at all of these questions, and, together with input from our congregation, we hopefully will be able to progress with these issues.

We had a very informative and enthusiastic council retreat in early February at which time the future goals for Zion were discussed. One of the items that is now underway is the formation of a study group that will be asked to assemble information and suggestions on or short term and long term goals using their suggestions and the suggestions of the congregation that were voiced at the cottage meetings in 2014. The congregation will be updated as this information is received.

Discussions also were held concerning the child protection policy and why we must recruit and certify more individuals to be able to be compliant in our nursery and youth programs. Sections of the constitution will be reviewed to determine where we need to change our process and adhere to council responsibilities. We will also strive to improve our internal and external communications so that we keep everyone informed as to the business and the activities of the church. The property committee is presently working on the problem of the water intrusion in the basement and will present their recommendations to the council in the near future.

These were a few of the topics that we have before us and we hope that God will grant us the courage to face the challenges that are before us and to keep us ever mindful that we need to keep listening to Him and believing that He will be with us every step of the way.

We have many great opportunities, both large and small, for everyone to serve our church. No matter how little we think we have to offer, God wants us to make ourselves available for service. Instead of using our inadequacies, or our past failures or excuses, we should do our best and trust in the lord to work through us. No matter what we do, we're working for Jesus, even in the most menial work. As we work together according to each ones unique gifts, the church is benefitted.

I welcome and encourage your suggestions, comments, and concerns and pray that we will all cultivate our spiritual gifts that they might build up Zion and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

Yours in Christ,  
John F. Hinkle Jr.

# Lent, Holy Week, Easter Flowers

## WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES & THEMES

Wednesdays at 1 & 7 PM in the Sanctuary

**Theme: "What needs to be healed"**

3/2 Communities

3/9 Family Relationships

3/16 Body/Mind/Spirit

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 24 at 1 & 7 PM in the Sanctuary

\*\*\*\*\*

## EASTER FLOWERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10/plant)

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Order Deadline: March 14

\*\*\*\*\*

Please take your flowers home with you after the 10:30 AM Easter service on March 27.

Flowers not picked up by Tuesday, March 29th will be planted on the church grounds.

# **Faith Formation** *Submitted by Chris Reinford*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **Children's Sunday School**

*Age 2 – Grade 5*

Zion Lutheran Church's Sunday School teachers, Mrs. Gundel, Mrs. Grim, Mrs. Bear, Mrs. Haun, Mrs. Landis and Mrs. Myers welcome all children age 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to join us in the sanctuary at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings for some exciting music and songs provided by Mr. Dezort. After that, we move to our Sunday

School rooms for Bible stories, Bible verses, fun activities, and crafts from the Spark curriculum.

Sunday School classes end at 10:15 AM, and parents should come to the classroom to pick up their children at that time. A gentle reminder that Sunday School teachers usually want to get to the 10:30 AM church service too!

### **Youth Sunday School**

*Grade 6 – Grade 12*

Our Youth Sunday School classes will be learning from the Faith Lens resource on ELCA's official website.

This series focuses on current events or trends and is written by pastors and youth leaders in the ELCA throughout the world.

### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

*All Ages*

#### **The Sunday Scholars**

This class meets in the Parlor starting at 9:15am. They are currently going through a video series by John Ortberg. This class discusses challenging theological topics that are great for deepening your faith and understanding.

#### **Adults Class in the Social Hall**

This class meets in the Social Hall and focuses on the Wired Word. The Wired Word connects contemporary issues with what the Bible would have to say about the issue. This is a fun class that thrives on great discussion and fun conversation.

## **KIDS' CLUB**

Kids' Club will continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday's of every month. Meals will continue to be held at 5:30pm with the program starting at 6:00pm and ending at 7:00pm.

The children are currently learning about the Fruits of the Spirit, but we will continue that series after our series on Lent in March!

March 2, 2016

*"Were you there?" Lent Lesson #1*

March 16, 2016

*"Were you there?" Lent Lesson #2*

Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 10am

*Easter Egg Hunt*

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

In March there will be opportunities provided to prepare children for First Holy Communion. I would like to invite you to join other families in the congregation for this important instruction and faith step in your child's life.

We believe that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a gift from Jesus Christ to nourish the faith lives of all who are baptized; therefore, even infants could receive the bread and wine. However, most Lutheran churches provide some type of instruction before a child receives his or her First Holy Communion. At Zion, the practice is to offer Holy Communion instruction to children during their first or second grade years, however, kindergarten-aged siblings have been included at the parents' request.

First Holy Communion preparation classes will be held during the Sunday School hour on March 5 & 12. Parents are encouraged to be present for these sessions. The mornings will include activities, videos, brief discussions, and music. Take-home resources will help you provide further conversation about, and review of what, your child is learning.

On Wednesday evening, March 23, the youth of the Head to Heart Confirmation Program will host a Passover Seder for the congregation beginning at 6:00 PM. This event is also part of the First Communion preparation. Like the previous sessions, parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

The children will celebrate their First Holy Communion during the worship service of your preference on Palm Sunday, March 20. In order to prepare for the service, those participating will be asked to be at the church 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. Other family members and friends are welcome to join you for this special event in your child's life.

It is important for you and your child to attend Sunday Worship during the weeks leading up to his or her First Holy Communion celebration. This way, what is being taught will have greater effect and your child will gain further understanding of the gift of Holy Communion. Of course, your model of regular worship attendance throughout the year provides positive reinforcement of the importance of our faith in Jesus Christ and how this enriches our lives.

Please call or email the church office no later than February 21 to register your child for First Holy Communion instruction. I'm looking forward to sharing this faith journey with you and your child.

## ZYM



### H2H RETREAT

*March 18-20, 2016*

Confirmation will be going to Camp Kirchenwald for a time away to learn and grow spiritually! Cost for this event will be \$30.

### SEDER DINNER

*March 23, 2016*

Our confirmation class will be providing the Seder Dinner again this year. It is a great reminder of the events during Holy Week leading up to Christ's death and resurrection. All are invited to attend this meal, which starts at 6:00pm.

### ISAAC'S EAT OUT NIGHT

*March 30, 2016*

There will be another Isaac's Eat-Out night to support our summer mission trip. Dinner will be open between 5pm and 9pm. Don't forget to bring your flyer with you. These will be distributed in church.

### 30-HOUR FAMINE

*April 22-23, 2016*

We will be participating in the 30-hour famine. This is a time where we fast from food for 30 hours together. We will meet at 6pm on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and we will join in a feast together at 6pm on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be going to the Laser Dome at 8pm on Friday, this will cost \$20. On Saturday morning, we will serve breakfast for a fundraiser at 8am. Please encourage a friend to do this challenge with you!

### DETROIT MISSION TRIP

*July 10-16, 2016*

ZYM and any adult 14 and older (entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade is accepted), will be joining Lutheran Hands back in Detroit to help with clean-up and many other jobs! Please consider coming to help serve for a great cause. Please contact Chris Reinford (717-715-6861) if interested in going! The deadline for sign-up will be March 31<sup>st</sup>. A \$100 deposit will be due by this same date. Spots fill-up fast so don't delay!

#### MARCH 2016

6 H2H @ 6p  
13 ZYM @ 6p  
18-20 H2H Retreat  
23 Seder Meal  
27 Easter Sunday

#### APRIL 2016

3 H2H @ 6p  
10 ZYM @ 6p  
17 H2H @ 6p  
22-23 30-Hour Famine  
24 ZYM @ 6p



## **Prayer Team** *Submitted by Dolly Overly*

**Pray Daily Affirmations** - Bob Hostetler  
(Guideposts.Org)

Most of us pray when we are in need, which is a good thing. The Bible says to pray at such times.

But praying only (or mostly) when we are worried, fearful, sad or stressed can be dangerous. We may soon come to see ourselves as worried, fearful, sad or stressed people. It can color our opinions of ourselves and add to the negative feedback we so often get from the world around us and from the forces that oppose us.

That is why a habit of praying daily affirmations can be so instructive and constructive. Prayers of affirmation are one way of obeying the scriptural command to focus on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...excellent or praiseworthy" (Philippians 4:8, NIV).

The best daily prayer of affirmation is one that counters the lies you tend to believe about yourself instead of trusting what God has said about you. It may be something like this:

Lord God, my King,  
please open my eyes so I may know the  
truth that sets me free.  
I am loved by You.  
I am accepted by You.  
I am a new creation.

I am a child of God and an heir of Your  
kingdom.

I am Your masterpiece.

I am a citizen of heaven.

I am chosen of God, holy and dearly  
loved.

I am a child of light and not darkness.

I am part of a chosen people, a royal  
priesthood, a holy nation, a special family  
that belongs to God.

I share the divine nature.

I have the mind of Christ.

I am complete in Christ.

I am called to be free.

I possess the fruit of the Spirit, which is  
love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-  
control.

I am Yours and You are mine,  
in Jesus' name, amen.

(Scripture references: John 8:32, John  
3:16, Romans 15:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17,  
Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 2:10,  
Philippians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 1  
Thessalonians 5:5, 1 Peter 2:9-10, 2 Peter  
1:4, 1 Corinthians 2:16, Colossians 2:10,  
Galatians 5:13, Galatians 5:22-23, Song of  
Solomon 6:3).

When we pray these God-breathed words  
each day, we are sure to be transformed by  
the renewing of the mind (Romans  
12:2). Feel free to adopt and adapt the  
words above. Print them and place them  
where you can recite them daily. Soon they  
will be implanted in your memory, take root  
in your heart and bear fruit in your life.

## **Food Pantry** *Submitted by Diane L. Gerlach*

### Hempfield Area Food Pantry, Inc.

**In January**, the pantry served 178 families which included 231 children, 373 adults, and 89 seniors for a total of 693 people served. **We continue to register new families each month.....in January we registered 9 new families.**

**During the month of January Zion members donated 152 pounds of food.** Thank you for your weekly 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 January....Darrenkamps of Mount Joy** donated 1,053 pounds of fresh produce to the pantry; **Target in Lititz** donated 1,632 pounds of fresh produce and 130 pounds of bakery items; **Weis Markets in Columbia** donated 1,006 pounds of bread and bakery items; **Weis Market Stony Battery Road** donated 525 pounds of bread and bakery items. **S. Clyde Weaver** donated 212 pounds of bread and bakery items; **Forry's** 78 pounds of produce; **Giant of Kissel Hill, Lititz** contributed 337 pounds of bakery items; **Giant of Mount Joy** donated 287 pounds of bakery items. **The pantry purchased** 1,121 pounds of food items through local grocery stores; 4,405 pounds of food from the Central Penn Food Bank; and received 836 pounds of free food items from Community Action Program in Lancaster.

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. **Fifty eight volunteers gave 557 hours during the month of January.** 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 continues to operate with a full non-paid staff.

**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 P) to witness God's hands, feet, heart, and love in action!**

**The “main” items needed (requested) for the pantry currently through February are 12 -18 ounce containers of jelly and 1 pound packs of spaghetti. Thank you!**

**Together we will feed the hungry!**

## **Community Meal** *Submitted by Linda Bear*

### The Perfect Times

Now is one of the perfect times to reach out to others in our local community by volunteering to serve as part of our congregation's Thursday night meal ministry. Our Christ Lutheran Meal Ministry formerly served six meals a year to our Lancaster City community, and now we have the opportunity to serve five meals a year to our guests from Landisville, Salunga, Mount Joy and the surrounding Hempfield areas in our own Social Hall!

We are fortunate that Joanne Grim will be available **on Thursday, February 11, 2016**, to guide us in our serving and clean-up responsibilities. Although there will be some changes in routine, many of our jobs will remain the same. We will be serving the same meal of ham loaf, baked potatoes, green beans, fruit cocktail, rolls and butter, drinks, and desserts. We will still need volunteers to pick up and deliver groceries and supplies the day before each meal along with four or five people to prepare the food on the day of each meal. We will need six volunteers to prepare desserts and eight volunteers to help with serving and clean up.

Sign-up sheets will be available in our narthex **on Sunday, January 21 through Sunday, February 7, 2016**. Please read them carefully for time changes and add your name to be a part of this giving ministry. Of course, you are always welcome to sign up for more than one of these jobs if they suit your schedule.

Finally, contact **Linda Bear or Connie Alsedek** with any questions or concerns. The next four meals will occur in **April, June, October, and December 2016** on the **second Thursday** of each of those months. These will be the perfect times to "give thanks with a grateful heart" in service to our nearby neighbors and friends.



## **Zion Lutheran Nursery School**

### **Fundraiser...**



**WHAT??** S. Clyde Weaver Sub Coupons are good for made-to-order subs with your choice of bread, cheese, meat, toppings, & condiments.

Coupons can be redeemed prior to November at the following S. Clyde Weaver locations: Lancaster Central Market, Lititz Pike & E. Petersburg Stores, Lebanon Farmers Market, & Lancaster County Farmers Market (Wayne).

**HOW MUCH??** Only \$6 each (\$2.50 of which will go to the Nursery School)

**WHEN??** March 6th – 20th

**WHERE??** Coupons will be sold after each worship service in the narthex on Sunday, March 6, 13, and 20. If you won't be in church on those Sundays, contact Mary Hetrick (898-3162)

### **More Nursery School News...**

In April, we will have car wash coupons available on the first two Sundays. By the end of winter, our cars will surely need a good wash! The Nursery School gets 50% of the proceeds and the coupons are the same price you would pay for a standard wash. The proceeds from these fundraisers will help decrease the amount of financial help that the Nursery School needs from the church. They also make great gifts!

As we prepare for our celebration event on May 1st, we are looking for any class pictures from the Nursery School classes through the past 29 years. We plan to have a video/slide show to run during the event. If you have a child who attended our school and would be willing to lend your pictures, please contact Mary Hetrick. Good quality snapshots would also be appreciated. Thanks to all for your support of the Nursery School.

## **Thank You, Sympathy, Congratulations**

To all of the wonderful people of Zion who helped to give us comfort and peace following the death of our beloved son, Michael Charles. We thank you so much for the cards, visits, phone calls, and silent prayers. A very special thanks to Pastor JMe for coming to us immediately with her counsel and prayers.

God bless you all,  
Mike & Arlene Miller

Thank you for the prayers and support throughout my pregnancy and birth of Andrew Malachi. We appreciate all the thoughtfulness, generosity, care that has been extended to our family. Thank you, also, to Joanne for sharing to-go containers from the Community Meal, the volunteers helping in the office while I am out, and to Pastor JMe for her visit.

-Anne & Chris Rankin  
(Zach & Rachel Sunshine, too)



A special thank you to Todd Benedict, Ed Blough, Darrell Gerke, Jere Grube, Jesse Landis, and Tom Miller for all of their hard work shoveling and snow blowing the walkways at the church and Cooper House during our recent snow falls!

Condolences to Pastor JMe and her extended family on the death of her cousin, Charles Alexander Marks, III, who died in Virginia on Saturday, February 20.



January 2016

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Hello,

Please allow me to **thank you** for your support during our recent pill container collection for Malawi. It has been a success beyond anything we could have ever imagined. Before the collections ended on January 15 we have surpassed an unimagined 2 million prescription pill containers. Over 600,000 have already been shipped and as they are distributed in Malawi we will post pictures and stories on the website, Facebook, and our electronic newsletter.

Our Board of Directors feels all of the programs we need to refocus on are important, and there are a number of them this year. However, there is one that needs immediate and urgent attention.

A life threatening famine is spreading across Malawi. Since harvests take place in April and May, and since last years planting was destroyed in many parts of the nation because of severe weather conditions, large amounts of village grain bins are running out of food. It will only get worse between now and the next harvest. To add to the pain rains in 2016 are almost questionable.

Without our assistance many villages are just too far away from the next locally grown food supply. Food can be shipped in or purchased on the local market. It is just that the village people do not have money to purchase it. We can do both; ship and buy. That will be our focus in the short term. At the same time we will be working to procure more drip irrigation systems and V-Tractors (see our Facebook and web site for more details) to help them get back on their feet with the new planting season. During the disastrous famine of 2001-03 we were in Malawi and witnessed the suffering first hand. We will be there again later this year and expect to see much of the same. However, we hope this time we can gain a great response and make a difference for people who don't deserve to suffer the hideous situation they face.

Please pray for our success, and please subscribe to our newsletter (see the bottom of the page for contact addresses). This way you can keep up with what is taking place during 2016. We have great plans and God willing, many of them will be accomplished to help stem suffering in Malawi.

Again, thank you for your help in recent months, and for your continued focus on Malawi and its people.

Sincerely,

**Dick**

Richard Stephens, co-founder, Malawi Project

For the latest news:  
<http://www.malawiproject.org>

For references about the Malawi Project:  
<http://greatnonprofits.org/org/malawi-project-inc>

Financial Assistance:  
<https://malawiproject.org/donate>

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<http://malawiproject.org/subscribe/>

#### FAMINE IN MALAWI – A Picture of Hopelessness

Malawi, Central Africa ... Famine has again come to Malawi, not because of the lack of effort on the part of village farmers, but because of weather conditions they cannot control. It was the same in 2002-03 when a similar weather situation caused devastating famine. It was during that time this picture was taken. I have looked at it multiple times over the years hoping against hope to not see the same situation again. But weather conditions over recent months have brought the same conditions and the same results. Over 3,000,000 people are in jeopardy of starvation, and immediate aid is necessary.

Unlike developed nations, there are few resources to assist those who suffer from crop losses in Malawi. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest nation on earth the government is helpless to assist the massive number of people who are suffering. Many aid organizations have a number of nations on which to focus, and while there is food in the cities, the village people have no money with which to buy it. Eighty-five percent of the population of Malawi lives in the small village areas.

The Malawi Project, with the conclusion of the pill container program, is now focusing on famine relief. Funds are needed for shipping costs. The food is available and can be donated to the Project. However, the funds to ship it to Malawi are needed. Please mark checks "Famine Relief", or go to the top right corner of this web site and click "Donate". Mark your donation as "Famine Relief." Every dollar will help make the difference.



*The picture shows a woman at one of the Malawi Project distribution sites waiting for food in an earlier famine. Unlike most Malawians who are frequently smiling and happy, her expression tells a story of despair, desperation, helplessness and hopelessness.*

# March Celebrations

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 Ellie Leach  
3 Rick Rainar  
4 Connie Alsedek  
4 Andrew Bernhard  
4 Barb Wildasin  
7 John Hay  
7 Jay Smith  
8 Beth Dum\*  
8 Darrell Gerke  
8 Madeline Quinn  
11 Ethan Pfautz  
13 Sofia Deibler  
14 Shirley Cates  
14 Nancy Price  
16 Liz Crum  
17 Devin Andrew  
17 Lydia Golihew  
19 Matthew McCullough  
20 Trevor Barry  
21 Chloe Traup  
22 Marty Gerlach  
22 Benjamin Green  
23 Hannah Pipkin  
25 Leah Egenrieder  
25 Brenda Rosen  
26 Jeanette Bomberger  
26 Bunny Emmons  
26 Scott Hetrick  
26 Brian Sherwood  
26 Andrew Sherwood  
27 Kevin Reinhart  
28 Chris Small  
29 Derek Stone  
30 Helen Auchey  
30 Jennifer Barley  
30 Kate Gunzenhauser

## HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

1 Meghan Brady  
1 Parker Stitzel  
3 Joe Adams  
6 Lily Gunzenhauser  
6 Brodan Quinn  
10 Sam King  
12 Fred Hamor  
12 Sarah Thompson  
12 Mary Zimmerman  
15 Finn Gunzenhauser  
15 Cynthia Shelley  
15 Derek Stone  
20 Keller Moore  
21 Nate Deibler  
21 Millie Gundel  
21 Bob Traup  
22 Ellie Barley  
22 Brad Sherwood  
25 Dianne Coons  
25 Doug Stoner  
26 Sam Contino  
28 Olivia Richards  
30 Kristen Haun  
31 Jason Green  
31 Ariana Jackson  
31 Travis Jackson


\*90+ Birthday

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

4 Steve & Denise Haun (38th)  
19 George & Charlotte Potts (56th)  
27 Tom & Mary Grzybowski (49<sup>th</sup>)





## Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund



*Together,  
we will grow  
stronger*

**"Renewing congregations and starting new missions will make us stronger in the Lower Susquehanna Synod."**  
— Bishop James S. Dunlop

 **Lower Susquehanna Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



*We share a living,  
daring confidence in God's grace.*

## **Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund**

*Goal: \$750,000*



We look to the future of our church with optimism and hope by:

- Starting new worshipping communities
- Revitalizing existing congregations
- Looking at new ways of serving people and being church
- Providing resources, tools and leaders



Funds are needed to:

- Acquire new sites
- Provide grants to new mission congregations
- Provide grants to congregations with special plans to expand their ministries
- Provide grants to congregations who have elected to relocate or consolidate with other congregations

Bringing new people, new energy and bold innovation to our whole synod – these are important reasons why we are eager to establish new ministries, even as we work aggressively to help our most promising established congregations revise, retool and revitalize.



As we fulfill our congregational mission in the Lower Susquehanna Synod we will:

- Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hungry world
- Establish relationships with all people
- Find spiritual renewal for ourselves and congregations



*What is God calling us to do  
in this time and in this place?  
Who are we as people of God?  
How do we respond to these questions?*

For more information, please contact:

Always Being Made New Campaign  
Lower Susquehanna Synod, 900 S. Arlington Ave. Suite 220B, Harrisburg, PA 17109  
717-652-1852 x114 dnicholson@lss-elca.org (email) www.lss-elca.org



## **The Parish Resource Center**

The Parish Resource Center has relocated to a newly renovated space at 2160 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster (between Friendly's Restaurant and Lancaster Mennonite School). Our phone number (717-299-1113) and hours remain the same (Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

The following are the Parish Resource Center March Workshops.

For more information—and to register—please go to [www.parishresourcecenter.org](http://www.parishresourcecenter.org) or call 717-299-1113.

### ***1. Intergenerational Ministry – Generations Growing in Faith Together (PART 1 OF 2)***

Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

Led by Liz Perraud of GenOn Ministries

**Free to anyone attending a Member Church** (\$15 for nonmembers)

In this workshop, participants will untangle the definition of intergenerational ministry and learn why gathering multiple generations together to learn, worship, serve and build relationships is important for faith development. Join us as we explore being an intergenerational church and discover best practices to get there.

Part 1 of a 2 part series. The second part (on Thursday, March 31) will be creating and experiencing a cross-generational event together.

*Note: The 2 events are designed to stand alone, so that you don't need to attend one to attend the other, but it is helpful to attend both.*

### ***2. Remembering the Body: Practicing Yoga in the Christian Context***

Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

Led by Jen Biemiller, PRC Consultant and yoga instructor

**Free to anyone attending a Member Church** (\$15 for nonmembers)

This workshop will explore:

- What does the bible have to say about the human body? (Explore scriptures that may guide us in understanding what God intends for the care of our bodies)
- Discuss fragmentation of the body- mind-spirit n
- Explore yoga as a re-integration process, a “home-coming” method
- Experience breath as God-given animation of the body-soul
- Learn basic yoga flow/positions
- PRC's mission for integrating yoga in its offerings to member churches

### ***3. We Will Speak Out: Equipping Churches to Recognize and Respond to Sexual Violence***

Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz

**Free to anyone attending a Member Church** (\$15 for nonmembers)

This workshop will explore how to strengthen and equip churches to appropriately recognize and respond to sexual violence within our communities. The program has been developed by Mennonite Central Committee. This campaign is part of a larger U.S. movement of diverse faith groups across the country, joining together to end the silence around sexualized violence.

#### ***4. All Generations Together— Let's Do It! (PART 2 OF 2)***

Thursday, March 31 at 6:30pm

Led by Jill Reichert, PRC Consultant

In the first part of this series (March 14), attendees discovered WHY it is so important for all of the generations of a church to gather together in worship and in learning.

During this workshop, participants are going to TRY OUT an inter-generational event! We will gather for a dinner, activities, Bible study, fellowship and fun with a focus on an upcoming text of Pentecost!

## **Lutheran Music Program**

### ***Home of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival***

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is about celebrating the music of the church that unites us and connects us to our shared heritage as people of faith. It is about providing exceptional musical training for young people. It is about intentional community. It is about teaching teenagers to recognize their unique gifts and the gifts of their peers. It is about preparing them for a life of joyful service to their community and to God. For more than 30 years, students have come to LSM and returned to their home congregations ready to share their experience. LSM 2016 will be held June 24-July 24 on the campus of Luther College of Decorah, Iowa. For more information, visit: [www.lutheransummermusic.org](http://www.lutheransummermusic.org)

## **Church Staff**

The Rev. Janice Marie E. Lowden, Pastor, email: pastorjme@comcast.net  
Christopher P. Reinford, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry,  
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)  
Dave Albin, Technology Assistant

## **Church Council**

### ***(Voting Members)***

John Hinkle, Pres.  
Doug Rhoads, VP  
Deb Overly  
Joel Janisewski  
Ed Blough  
Scott Hetrick  
Scott Crum  
Anna Benedict (ZYM)

### ***(Nonvoting Members)***

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

## **Ministry Team Chairs**

Judy Traup, Care Ministry  
Chris Reinford, Christian Ed  
John Hay, Finance  
Dave Dumeyer, 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

***April Newsletter Deadline: March 15***  
**Sunday Services: 8:00 AM (Traditional) & 10:30 AM (Contemporary)**  
**Faith Formation For All Ages: 9:15 AM**

