



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Connecting with God, Connecting with Others, Connecting others with God"

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
85 E. Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA 17538
(717) 898-2911

ZION NEWS

Issue 3: April 2016

The Ministers of Zion: Every member of the congregation
The Rev. Janice Marie E. Lowden, Pastor
717-898-2911/zionluth@comcast.net/www.zionhempfield.net/@zionhempfield

IN THIS ISSUE...

A Message From Chris Reinford	2-3
Faith Formation:	
Sunday School	4
Kids' Club	4
ZYM	5
Circle of Grace	6
Lutheran Church Camp	7
Reformation Trip to Germany	7
Women of Zion	7
Prayer Team	8
Food Pantry	9-10
Community Meal	10
Financial Update	11
Thank You, Sympathy, Congratulations	12-13
April Celebrations	14
Within the Wider Church:	
Parish Resource Center	15-16
Lutheran Youth Day	17
Lutheran Marriage Encounter	17
Pennsylvania Lutheran Seminaries	18
Chris Reinford Resignation Letter	19
Church Staff & Leadership	20

A Message From Chris Reinford

Zion,

There are so many positives right now at Zion that should be celebrated. Kids' Club is going well. We have averaged 12-15 kids each Wednesday evening that we have held the program, with a total of 45 kids being involved. Zion is filled with families who know how to raise their children. Zion has a solid group of youth who love to get together and learn more about God. They have so much knowledge about their faith. They are very inspiring. Zion has an abundance of God-seeking adults who strive to support the ministries that God has led you to create and build. Zion supports the Food Pantry, the community meal, and many other ministries that support and nurture the people around Zion. God is looking out for Zion and I believe that God has some very special missions in store for the church in this community. You are all here today for a reason. It's not by chance that you are worshipping with us. God wants you here because he has a purpose for you. Get involved and work towards the mission God has given you.

God speaks to us all in different ways. Growing up, one of the hardest things for me was hearing God speak. I was always taught that if you listened you could hear God speak. Easier said than done. I had the opportunity to learn from someone in Jr. High Sunday school, who could hear the voice of God when he prayed. His whole adult life was filled with moments where God led him to the right situation at the right time where he would fill a need that had been prayed for and there was no way it could be just a coincidence.

For me, God speaks through other people. He seems to place other people in my life to lead me to the right decisions and the right place at the right time. Sometimes God pushes me in ways I might not want to go. And if that has happened to you then you share the feeling that sometimes you follow Him kicking and screaming. Sometimes God opens doors that will just stand there staring at you for years waiting for you to walk through them. God has a plan for you and me because he knows what is best for us. Will we walk through the door?

God placed my old Sunday School teacher in front of me for the first time in 8 years last year. I had been seeking some direction with what God wanted me to do with the rest of my life, a common thing for a twenty-six year old and probably anyone else. God answered that prayer, and through it I realized I have been kicking and screaming. I realized that God was trying to show me a door that was open through other people for a long time. People I grew up with, worked with, and many of you here at Zion were all people that added to this direction. It was a door I didn't want. You see, I never saw myself as pastor material. I didn't think I was as strong in my faith as I needed to be to lead an entire congregation. But God has ways of making a believer believe. I know that he wants me to be a pastor. I know that he has given me the skills to do so. Now I need to walk through that door. Sometimes God's timing stinks. But God's time does not work for our will but His will. He knows what is best and the best he has for us sometimes has to be pushed in our path so we can see it.

You all have given me so much the last two years. You have become a second family. Most of my very best friends are at Zion. I don't want to walk through this door. I have enjoyed working with the children at Kids club and their parents who are devoted to bringing their children to as many church events as they can. I love the kids here. I love hearing them shout Mr. Chris. I don't want to walk through this door. The adults here have always supported me through everything. Some of you are like my grandparents, my parents, my friends. You have taught me so much. I don't want to walk through this door. Zion has a great group of teens who have become my best friends. If you haven't had a chance to spend time with them yet, you are missing out. They are amazing. I have been many places and they are the best. I have looked forward to everyday I get to spend with them. Teaching them, traveling with them, learning with them, playing, serving, crying, singing, laughing....

I have to walk through this door. God has shown me through other people that I need to follow Him. I am announcing today that my last full day at Zion will be Sunday, April 3. I have been called to fill an Associate Pastor position at Akron Church of the Brethren. There I will pursue my master's degree to become an ordained pastor. Something God has placed on my heart in the last few months. However I will be helping with the transition to find that person that will take my place. Someone God has out there for Zion is waiting to be called to this position. I have prayed about it and God will answer that prayer. I will be helping finish this season of Kids' Club, VBS, and some various youth events that are coming up in the next few months.

I understand that there will be disappointment, resentment, confusion, and sadness. I assure you, this is a God thing. If you feel any of those emotions, I would ask you to pray and ask God for guidance and support. You all have given me everything. I am who I am today because of you all. Thank you for serving with me. Now it's your time to get involved and make these ministries your own. This community is your mission field and this church is your tool. Take pride in what God has given you in your life and take pride in what God has given Zion. Opportunities here are infinite. Don't be afraid to walk through new doors that God opens for you.

Peace and love,
Chris

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 5th 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 1st and 3rd 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!

April 6, 2016

"Fruits of the Spirit: Gentleness"

April 20, 2016

"Fruits of the Spirit Wrap-Up"

May 4, 2016

"May the 4th Be with You"

ZYM



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 22nd and we will join in a feast together at 6pm on Saturday the 23rd. 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!

ISAAC'S EAT OUT NIGHT

April 25, 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.

MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

May 30, 2016

Along with the Social Outreach team, ZYM will be holding a pancake fundraiser to the community on Memorial Day. This fundraiser will be held from 7am-11am. Please come out and support ZYM and the Social Outreach team!

WHITE WATER RAFTING

June 25, 2016

This trip will be held at the White Water Adventures in Ohio, PA. We will be doing the Lower Yough Adventure, which are class 3 and 4 rapids. We will leave the church at 7:30am. The trip on the river will be 3.5 to 5 hours long. We will arrive back at the church by 9:00pm. The cost for this trip is \$70, which covers the van, the trip, lunch, and dinner. Please let Chris (717-715-6861) know if you are interested in this trip.

DETROIT MISSION TRIP

July 10-16, 2016

ZYM and any adult 14 and older (entering 9th Grade is accepted), will be joining Lutheran Hands back in Detroit to help with cleanup 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 April 6th. A \$100 deposit will be due by this same date (if possible). Spots fill-up fast so don't delay!

APRIL 2016

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

MAY 2016

1 H2H @ 6p
8 ZYM @ 6p
15 H2H @ 6p
22 Confirmation Sunday
29 ZYM @ 6p
30 Memorial Day Pancake Fundraiser

JUNE 2016

12-16 Vacation Bible School
19 ZYM @ 6p
25 White Water Rafting 7a – 9p

JULY 2016

10-16 LutheranHANDS Mission Trip
Detroit, MI
17 ZYM @ 6p
31 ZYM @ 6p

Circle of Grace

Christian Safe Environment Program

Submitted by Linda Bear



Sunday School students in our Kindergarten through Fifth grade classes completed "The Circle of Grace" program designed to "educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others." Through this program, the children were taught the following objectives.

- We are all created by God and live in the circle of His love along with His son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- God's Circle of Grace helps all of us identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- We will be able to identify different types of boundary violations through use of The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan
- We will demonstrate how to take action if a boundary is violated.

Our teachers will continue to incorporate this information into our Sunday School lessons for the remainder of the year. In addition, children should be encouraged to talk about and use this valuable information at home with their parents and other trusted adults, so they will understand the importance of using it in the many environments they encounter throughout their days ahead.

Lutheran Church Camp

Zion Camp Person On Board!

Ted Symonds is Zion's new "camp person" who is available as a liaison between the congregation and the Lutheran Camping Association site, Nawakwa and Kirkenwald. Because of Ted's special role, Zion's campers may receive some special perks when they register for camp this summer.

1. A discount for checking the box on the registration form about the "camp person" attending a training meeting.
2. A discount for early registration.

For more information on Lutheran Camps in our area, contact Ted at: tsymonds@cooltrains.com or 898-9406.

As Zion is a strong supporter of Lutheran Church camping programs here in Lower Susquehanna Synod, there is a special grant available for children who register as campers this year. First time campers may request a \$100 grant. Those returning to camp this year may apply for a \$50 grant. Contact the church office for copies of the request form. The grants are going fast, so it's first come, first served.

500TH Anniversary Of The Reformation- Trip To Germany

Pastor JMe is considering the organization of a tour of Germany in early May, 2017. The 10-day itinerary includes visits to major cities and sites related to the time of Martin Luther and the Reformation of the Church. We will travel to Berlin, Wittenberg, Eiselben, Leipzig, Eisenach, Mainz, Worms, Heidelberg, and Frankfurt. The cost is \$ 3,649 per person with 30 paying participants. The total tour package includes air and ground transportation, accommodations in first-class hotels, at least one meal each day (breakfast daily, one lunch and five dinners), a multilingual European Tour Manager, sightseeing and admission fees; and tips and taxes. Please contact JMe ASAP (by April 3, if possible) if you are interested in this tour or for more information. There are incentives for booking early with Witte Tours. Witte specializes in "Spiritual Journeys" for church groups.

Women of Zion

- **Yarn Ministry**-Sunday, April 3 and April 17 at 1:00 PM in the parlor
- **Comforter Ministry**-Monday, April 4 at 9:00 AM in the social room

Coming up, on a Friday evening in July (date to be determined), a visit to **Sight and Sound** to see the newest show, *Samson*. Watch for details!

Prayer Team *Submitted by Dolly Overly*

How to Pray for our Leaders

Written by Sylvia Gunter of Thoughts-About-God.com

Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The Lord

Can we ask God to bless this nation in its present state of heart and Soul?

We can pray for us to be a nation that is blessable by God. We can pray that God will do what only He can do: change the hearts of kings (decision-makers in all areas of our economy and government) to follow after Him and His word.

Let's pray this for the President and Vice-President.

Let's pray this for all those in authority: Cabinet members, Senators and Congressmen, local officials, and candidates for office.

We need a revolution of blessedness in those in authority

Pray these "blessed" descriptions of godly leaders.

Lord, give us men and women who...

- . Delight in the law of God and meditate on it. Psalm 112:1
- . Take refuge in the Lord. Psalm 34:8
- . Trust in the Lord. Psalm 40:4
- . Have regard for the weak. Psalm 41:1
- . Maintain justice and do what is right. Psalm 106:3
- . Fear the Lord. Psalm 112:1.
- . Walk in God's way. Psalm 119:1.
- . Treat children as blessed. Psalm 127:3,5

Food Pantry *Submitted by Diane L. Gerlach*

Hempfield Area Food Pantry, Inc.

In February, the pantry served 180 families, which included 229 children, 383 adults, and 96 seniors for a total of 708 people served. **We continue to register new families each month...in February we registered 10 new families.**

During the month of February Zion members donated 241 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 February....Darrenkamps of Mount Joy donated 1,888 pounds of fresh produce to the pantry; **Target in Lititz** donated 1,631 pounds of fresh produce and 130 pounds of bakery items; **Weis Markets in Columbia** donated 1,253 pounds of bread and bakery items; **Weis Market Stony Battery Road** donated 445 pounds of bread and bakery items. **S. Clyde Weaver** donated 223 pounds of bread and bakery items; **Forry’s** 78 pounds of produce; **Giant of Kissel Hill, Lititz** contributed 367 pounds of bakery items; **Giant of Mount Joy** donated 181 pounds of bakery items. **The pantry purchased 882 pounds of food items through local grocery stores; 5,404 pounds of food from the Central Penn Food Bank; and received 2,631 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 that give their time to the pantry** each Monday and Wednesday as well as additional time as needed. **Sixty-seven volunteers gave 741 hours during the month of February.** 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 March are cereal and 12 -18 ounce containers of jelly. Thank you!

Together we will feed the hungry!

Other Pantry News...

The food pantry **received a grant of \$3,000 from the Abigail L. Longenecker Memorial Foundation in March.** The foundation provides funds to local nonprofit organizations for specific projects that benefit children. **These funds to the pantry help to buy “extra” food items to be distributed to pantry client families with children during the summer months when the children are home and do not receive the free and reduced breakfast and lunches at school.**

Abby Longenecker developed a vision far beyond her age. She saw need and she wanted to help. In 1997, just weeks before her death, she was visiting Deb’s House, a facility for children and families in crisis. Abby did not have the opportunity to volunteer at Deb’s House however, her spirit continues to help children who face challenges through the foundation set up in her name. A unique aspect of the Foundation is the fact that supported projects are chosen by a committee made up primarily of young people from the ages of 10 and up, some of them Abby’s friends. This ensures that Abby’s vision, seeing a child’s need from the eyes of a child, is continued. Abby, in her short life, learned that life’s greatest joys come from giving.

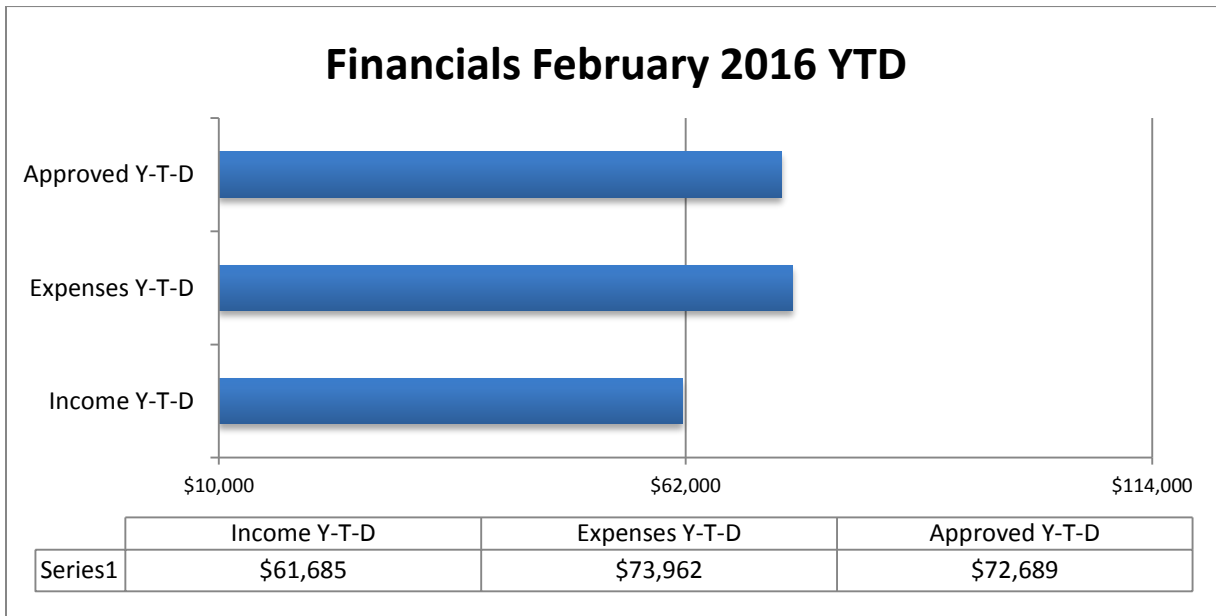
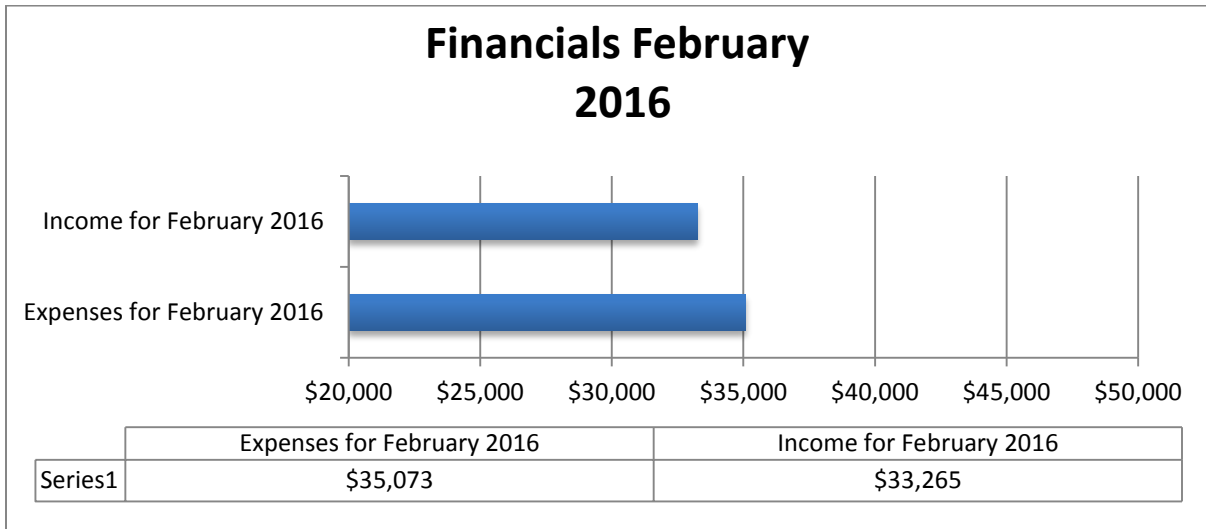
Since 1998, the Foundation has contributed to over 20 local on profit organizations. The pantry is thankful that our grant request was selected to receive the \$3,000 to purchase extra food items for our families with children during the summer months. **Thanks to Jim Bear who wrote and submitted the grant on behalf of our pantry.** Jim and Dave Bleil (President of HAFP Board) received the check at the presentation ceremony on March 6. Our community pantry is blessed with financial gifts and food donations all the time that support local families who continue to experience difficulty providing food for their families.



Community Meal

There are two dates open for the Community meal in June. June 16 and June 30. Sunday school teams, church members and families, individuals, think about hosting these two meals before summer comes. This year we will not be serving in July and August as it is too warm in the kitchen. Pray about having a meal and joining our group of Thursday night people. For more information call Joanne Grim at 898-2867.

Financial Update



Thank You, Sympathy, Congratulations

Thank You...

Dear Pastor JMe and Church members,

Thank you for including us in the wedding vow ceremony. The service was wonderful and the reception was very nice. So very glad the inclement weather didn't keep us away!

Sincerely,
Chloe & David Kalb
(Friends of Pastor JMe)

Thank you to everyone who was involved in organizing the baby shower for Andrew! We enjoyed the afternoon of celebration and time together; we appreciate all the support, gifts, and love extended to us and to Andrew.

-Anne & Chris Rankin

Dear Ladies of Zion –

Thank you so much for the adorable baby basket that was given to us! We greatly appreciate it and love all the goodies...especially the blanket! Thank again for everything!

Love, Jay, Aubrey, Allie, Ryan, & Jordan Provanzo

WE DID IT!! We raised awareness, and we reached the ELCA Malaria Campaign goal of \$15 Million by September, 2015. God be praised! Many lives have been saved due to these efforts.

Our synod's Malaria Task Force is pleased to report that 157 Lower Susquehanna congregations (66%) responded to this challenge and helped our synod raise \$390,833 toward the effort. This represents \$4.07/baptized member and 78% of our synod goal of \$50,000. Thank you to the congregations who helped us reach this level.

This story is not over. Although death rates from malaria are 60% lower than they were in 2000, our work is not finished. We will continue to raise awareness and funds (through ELCA World Hunger and [ABMN](#)) towards fulfilling our commitment and towards our ultimate goal of **MAKING MALARIA HISTORY. THANK YOU** on behalf of our synod's Malaria Task Force for helping our Church **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.

Christine Mummert, Chair
LSS Malaria Task Force

P.S. Zion has participated in this campaign, and our gifts helped ELCA World Hunger reach this goal!

Congratulations...



Amy & Josh Miller on the birth of their son, Maddox,
on Monday, February 29

Don & Laura Wierschke on the birth of their grandson, Brandon,
on Tuesday, March 1

First Holy Communion Celebration

It was with joy that the following children were welcomed to the Lord's Table for their First Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, March 20th: Emma Baumgardner, daughter of Deb Overly; Joshua Deibler, son of Aarin and Doug Deibler; Miriam Janisewski, daughter of Jean Pretz and Joel Janisewski; and Allie Provanzo, daughter of Aubrey and Jason Provanzo. In preparation, the children and their parents participated in two Saturday morning sessions of instruction about Holy Communion led by Pastor JMe, and they attended the Passover Seder Meal led by the H2H Confirmation Class students.

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

1 Delaney Klepper
2 Griffin Helm
2 Cameron Hertzog
4 Birgitte Chapman
5 Brooke Dohner
5 Doug Grow
5 Christina Lopez
8 Valerie Milholin
8 Sue Stathopoulos
9 Rose Yeager*
10 Joanne Grim
10 Connie Grow
11 Melissa Dohner
13 Cameron Thompson
14 Stephanie Stitzel
15 Bryanna Dohner
17 Michael Jarvie
17 Dylan Leibley
17 Karen Rainar
18 Ryan Provanzo
19 Edward Hopes
19 D.J. Korn
20 Jerry Poff
20 Karen Wright
21 Ruth Albright*
22 Amanda Grube
22 Madison Pipkin
22 Marvin Ruch
23 Michael Miller
25 Sara Bernhard
25 Kyle Symonds
26 Robert Wildasin
28 Deb Overly
28 Jason Richards
28 Thomas Williams
28 Christopher Wright
29 Jonathan Wise
30 Pauline Weiksner



Happy Baptismal Birthday!

1 Benjamin Moore
3 Marie Adams
10 Renee Censier
10 Janet Musselman
11 Cynthia Blough
12 Janet Bair
12 Olivia Small
13 Brenda Stover
14 Ruth Janisewski
15 Amelia Golihef
16 Wayne Dearolf
17 Barbara Williams
18 Melodie Dearolf
20 Allison Korn
20 Alexander Rogers
20 Patrick Rogers
21 Floyd Weidler
24 Chloe Traup
25 Alaina DiNardi
25 Dylan Gromen
27 Marvin Ruch

Happy Anniversary!

9 Rick & Nancy Price (33rd)
15 Wilson & Jennifer Pipkin (27th)
16 Robert & Janice Lowden (33rd)
25 Christopher & Tracie Andrew (18th)
25 Mitchell & Vivian Gunzenhauser (35th)
26 Marvin & Wenda Ruch (36th)

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 or call 717-299-1113.

1. Crucial Communication for your Church Community

Monday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Led by Kedren Crosby and Sarah Colantonio of Work Wisdom

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

Communication is the means by which we express who we are (or who we THINK we are!), what we think and feel, what we expect now and for the future, as well as how we build and maintain (and occasionally demolish) relationships. Authentic, clear and constructive communication is essential to the vibrancy of your church.

In this workshop, you will learn ten authentic communication practices that will enhance your ability to deepen relationships, persuade, collaborate and build trust. Please join us if you are ready to transform the health of your Church Community with new communication tools and practices.

2. Storyboxes... Godly Play... and All Things in Between

Monday, April 11, 7pm

Led by Jill Reichert and Sonja Eckert

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

Join us for an introduction to the Parish Resource Center's story boxes and the process of using Godly Play as a way to engage children in the beauty and wonder of Bible stories. Together we will discover how you can engage many of the senses and the imaginations of your children in recounting the stories of old. Let us help you discover what works for you in your church's setting!

3. Nurturing Your Love Relationship with God: An Introduction to Spiritual Direction

Monday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Led by Jen Biemiller, PRC Consultant and Spiritual Director

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

This workshop will explore:

- What is spiritual direction?
- History of spiritual direction and scriptural support for Christian spiritual direction practice
- Theological assumptions as the basis for practicing contemplative prayer

- How does spiritual direction fit into your faith tradition?
- What does a spiritual direction relationship involve?
- How does spiritual direction differ from counseling/therapy/pastoral care?
- Experience in centering prayer, lectio divina, contemplation
- PRC's mission in offering spiritual direction as a member service
- Visiting PRC's spiritual direction rooms

4. Trauma Awareness and Resilience

Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m.

Led by Krista Johnson Weicksel

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

After a difficult or traumatic event why can't we just "get over it"? When our ability to respond to threat is overwhelmed, we can act-out in destructive ways, which hurt others and ourselves. Unhealed trauma can lead to cycles of violence as "hurt people hurt people." Trauma impacts how individuals, churches and groups think, feel, and behave.

This workshop will focus on understanding trauma, cycles of violence, and tools for building resilience.

5. Institutional Racism

Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

Led by Dr. Larry Covin, Professor and Director of Continuing Education at Lancaster Theological Seminary

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

Defining, naming and distinguishing Institutional Racism in the context of the church. Too often we lack understanding of how institutional racism manifests itself within religious institutions and traditions. This conversation intends to highlight

The nuanced complexities of institutional racism, and its relationship to personal bias and prejudice.

Some of the takeaways from this workshop will be:

- How cultures are often in conflict in the church
- How traditions are often maligned in the church
- Differentiating personal bias from Institutional Racism

6. Church Administrative Assistants Luncheon

Wednesday, April 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the Parish Resource Center

Free to all attending.

All church administrative assistants and secretaries are invited! Check out our new space. 25 spaces available. First come, first served. Reserve your spot today!

Includes giveaways, gift bags, and more.

Lutheran Youth Day

Susquehanna University

April 16, 2016

Looking to build on the energy and excitement of the 2015 National Youth Gathering in Detroit? Bring your group to Susquehanna University for Lutheran Youth Day, where we will find new ways to rise up in service to our community. Service Projects with Lutheran Hands Water Walk Faith Building Fun.

<http://www.elca.org/Microsites/Youth%20Gathering%20Website/images/logo.png>

Amy Cox will provide music at the large group sessions and at the concluding concert at 4:00 p.m. Amy is a singer-songwriter and worship leader from Virginia with a deep passion for God, people, and stories. With music that grasps the ache of the soul, Amy writes from her own personal journey, interweaving scriptural truths and simple, beautiful melodies. Her debut album (released May 2014), *Coming Home to You*, is a collection of original songs that speak to the beauty of life and the faithfulness of God. With an engaging heart and infectious smile, this often-barefoot singer straps on her guitar and shares her story through words and music.

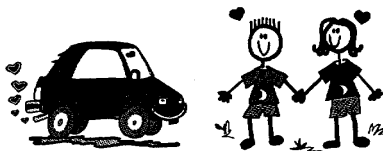
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in Stretansky Concert Hall Lobby. Event includes large group worship and gathering as well as small group sessions. Cost is \$10 per person (includes lunch and concluding concert.) Register and order your t-shirt by April 18th.

Chaplain's Office Phone: 570-372-4303 Susquehanna University email: musser@susqu.edu

514 University Avenue Selinsgrove, PA17870

<https://www.facebook.com/events/158073877904735/>

Lutheran Marriage Encounter



**YOUR CAR.....YOUR MARRIAGE
BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!**

Attention Married Couples: Thousands of couples have learned that taking some time to “tune-up” their marriages pays huge dividends. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed to strengthen and revitalize marriages whether you have been married a year or 60 years. We’re sorry that the April 8-10 Weekend in Lancaster is now full. (Feel free to contact us about the waiting list.) There is, however, currently still room for you at the **April 22-24 Weekend at State College’s premier conference center, the Penn Stater**. If this date doesn’t work for you, registrations are also being taken for the two fall Weekends at lovely, hotel-style retreat centers: September 16-18 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos or October 21-23 at Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. All costs for 2 nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and supplies are covered by a \$100.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish that you are given the opportunity to make toward the end of the weekend. To register online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, or for further information, contact Fred & Julie Schamber, PA Directors, at: fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

Pennsylvania Lutheran Seminaries Declare Intent to Form “New School of Theology”

(January 13, 2016) In simultaneous meetings held on their respective campuses January 12-13, the boards of Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries adopted identical resolutions calling for “the creation of a new school of theology and leadership formation.” Both boards’ resolutions stated their actions were taken “in the conviction that God and the church are calling us into a new venture of theological education, with a mission of preparing faithful Christian leaders for the church and the world.” The boards’ unanimous actions authorized the two schools’ presidents and other officers to take all necessary steps required prior to their April 2016 board meetings that would launch the process of creating a unified Lutheran seminary.

Founded in 1826, Gettysburg Seminary is the oldest Lutheran seminary in the Americas. Widely renowned for its role in the great Civil War battle of Gettysburg, the school on Seminary Ridge opened an award-winning Seminary Ridge Museum in 2013. Since its founding in 1864, Philadelphia likewise has played a pivotal role in American and Lutheran history. Beginning more than 40 years ago, Philadelphia’s outreach to ecumenical partners, particularly historic African American churches, has created one of the most diverse learning environments that exists in 21st century theological education.

“From the moment we both felt the Spirit leading in this bold new direction,” declared Presidents David Lose and Michael Cooper-White (of Philadelphia and Gettysburg respectively), “it became clear that our proposal would not envision simply blending together two fine traditions and excellent institutions. Rather, we believe God is calling us to do a new thing. Mergers are created out of past realities; our vision is to embrace what God is beckoning from the future.”

For more information about the New School of Theology, go to: <http://newschooloftheology.info>



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Connecting with God, Connecting with Others, Connecting others with God"

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
85 E. Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA 17538
(717) 898-2911

Christopher Reinford, Director of
Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

March 9, 2016

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Landisville, PA 17538

Dear Pastor, Congregation Council, and Members of Zion,

It is with regret that I submit my letter of resignation as the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. I intend to work through the end of the month, with my last day being Sunday, April 3, 2016. I recently received an offer to serve as the Associate Pastor of Akron Church of the Brethren. After months of prayerful consideration, I've realized that this opportunity is the right path for me and my family.

This decision did not come easily, but it was one where God was present and active in helping me to discern the right path. I have had a great 2 ½ years at Zion and I would not trade that time away. This experience has taught me a lot about myself and has helped me to grow as a youth leader and as a man of God. I knew that I wanted an opportunity to return to the Church of the Brethren in the future, but God has a way of working out His will in His time. This new opportunity gives me a place where my family can be involved comfortably, because they are all members of the Church of the Brethren. I will also have the chance to become re-licensed and work on my master's degree to become an ordained pastor.

I will sincerely miss working with the great staff of Zion, its devoted members, and the wonderful teenagers and children that I have grown to love over the last two years. I would be happy to help with the transition of my duties so that Zion continues to function as smoothly as possible after my departure. I would like to offer to lead and/or assist with events I have already planned, including the following: Kids' Club until the conclusion of this current season (4/6, 4/20, & 5/4), ZYM's 30 Hour Famine (4/22-4/23), and VBS planning and preparation. I want to support you all after you all have given me so much.

I want to give you my sincere thanks for all of the opportunities you have given me and for all of the knowledge and wisdom I have gained from being at Zion. I know that God has great things in store for the people of Zion and its community.

Wishing you the best,

Chris Reinford

Church Staff

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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

May Newsletter Deadline: April 15

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

Faith Formation For All Ages: 9:15 AM

