

ZION NEWS

Issue 1: January/February 2019

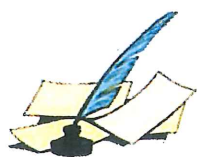


**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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

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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BARBARA CARUANA

Friends in Christ ...

*Grace and peace to each of you whom God knows intimately ...
Children of God whom God calls by name!*

As I sat down to write my first newsletter article for Zion, I realized I've been thinking a great deal about worship lately. What is it that makes people yearn to come together to give thanks and praise to God? What is it that draws hundreds of thousands of people to Christmas Eve services around the world, yet generally only attracts a handful of hardy folks to worship on the Sunday after Christmas? Why do some churches attract more people than others?

Is attendance at worship proportional to the time we have available in our busy schedules? Is attendance triggered by guilt? Exactly what is it? Inquiring minds really do want to know. Can you tell me?

Do people attend worship services because they have a need to hear the words of forgiveness spoken over and over again? Or is it that people like to hear the stories of old that remind us of Jesus' salvific deeds? Maybe people come to worship to meet up with friends ... for fellowship ... to be refreshed and renewed ... to praise God through music and prayer. There are so many possibilities.

I don't know specifically why each of you who is reading the article comes to worship, but what I do know is this: "[Worship] is the central action that shows what the church is and in which the church becomes more aware of itself as the people of God. It is the only thing that the church does now that will continue forever in the praise of the hosts of heaven." (*Lutheran Manual on the Liturgy, Pfatteicher and Messerli*) (Cont'd on page 2)

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From Pastor Barb (Cont'd from page 1), Lunch Bunch

In Psalm 67, the psalmist says: "Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you." I love that verse. In fact, I dream of the day when all the people ... **when all the people**

... will want to do nothing but praise God.

And so, as we move away from the Christmas season and head toward the Lenten season, I think about worship and what makes people want to be part of it ... not only on Sundays but on other days as well.

At Zion we are blessed with people who choose to praise God in different ways. There are those who prefer traditional worship and those who prefer non-traditional worship. There are those who prefer quiet, reflective times with God and those who express their faith in less quiet settings. Regardless of the setting, however, we are all called to worship and praise the God who draws near to us and makes himself known to us. And we do this by confessing our sins; listening to the Word

read and preached; by singing, praying for others, offering gifts, and by partaking in the meal of the Lord.

As we begin a new year, I invite you to reflect on what it is that draws you to come to worship. I invite you to examine reasons why some have left Zion's worshipping community and have the courage to invite them back into this family of faith (if they have not joined another church).

As we begin 2019, I praise God for the opportunities to explore how God comes to us ... how God is related to us ... and how we become aware of his life-giving presence. I give thanks for the opportunities to come together with all of you so that together we may worship and give to God the highest praise.

+In peace ... *Pastor Barb*

LUNCH BUNCH

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**Thursday, January 31 and
February 22 AT 11:30 AM**

**The January meal will be held at Longhorn
Steakhouse (located outside of Park City) on
Harrisburg Pk.**

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex



LONGHORN
STEAKHOUSE

♦ **Council Update** *Submitted by Adele King*

We have been quite busy over the past few months! Our most noteworthy event was the hiring of Pastor Barbara Caruana as our interim pastor. This took place after communications with the synod and interviews with possible candidates. We also hosted the community meal on October 18th. On November 4th, we held an informational session with the congregation. We discussed, at the meeting, the candidates for next years term. Specifically, Joel Janisewski, Brenda Stover and Riley Klepper would remain on the council, while Dave Dumeyer would be our new council nominee. Scott and Mary Hetrick agreed to be our representatives to the synod event in June. Since that time, all were approved by the congregation. Also discussed was the budget and how we would be impacted by renovations to our bathrooms and roof, as well as hiring nursery attendants. This is something we feel is holding us back from attracting young families.

John Hay gave an overview of our budget and our endowments. He noted that the Betty Lou Hoffman endowment should provide us with about \$60,000 each year. It is still imperative that we increase our giving along with attempting to attract new members. Mark Coons spoke about our facility needs and an ADA bathroom improvement campaign was discussed. Then, we held our annual congregational meeting on November 18th. Attendance at this meeting was 68, and the budget passed, as did all representatives to synod and members to council.

We, then, met again on November 19th. A job description for nursery attendants is being written by the personnel team. Discussions were held on IT, safe church committee, and youth involvement in the services. As a part of our strategic planning, we had further discussion on how to improve the welcoming appearance of Zion. Many suggestions were made and it was decided that we might find a task force to oversee some of the upcoming projects. Since then, Jeff really made some positive changes in the narthex and hallway. We heartily thank him for his efforts! We also discussed ways to engage the congregation and how to encourage their involvement in the life of the church.

At the December meeting, It was decided to look, once again, at a spiritual gifts type of survey and identify a way to match people with an opportunity to serve. New officers were elected at the meeting: I will continue as president, and vice-president will be Mark Coons. All of the non-voting members were given a vote of confidence, and Secretary, Brenda Stover was voted in at the congregational meeting. The personnel team submitted a nursery attendant position description. That was accepted and a search to fill the positions will begin. A recommendation was made by them, also, to make an amendment to our constitution. The congregation will receive an email stating this, and it will be voted on by the congregation on December 30th. Appointments of the personnel team were made for 2019 and 2020. Team liaisons were assigned for the year. (*Cont'd on pg. 4*)

♦ Council Update *(Cont'd from page 3)*, Zion Connections

The IT team gave us a handout to peruse regarding very specific policies, regarding best practices. Guidelines will be established. The “safe church” team will meet this month regarding safe church policies, and will come back with a set of guidelines to be followed. I went over a list of items that I felt had been forgotten throughout the year, and most were resolved. Team members were asked to think about a recommendation for strategic planning: meeting people “where they are”, options for worship and focusing on our mission.

Our thanks to Dave Dumeyer for agreeing to join the council this year. Also, thanks to Jeff and Anne for sprucing up Cooper House. Special thanks to Scott Hetrick for serving on council and serving as vice-president. Thanks to the Financial Team for their work on the budget and the council for their leadership during some tough times here at Zion. Pastor Caruana has been a God-send and the amount of things she has accomplished in less than a month is incredible. We are all looking forward to a renewed spirit and refreshed energy as we ring in the New Year!!



ZION CONNECTIONS

Submitted by Al Ramer

At Zion, we share many friendships and connections. These relationships are evident when we Share the Peace in the worship service. When we serve together in church activities, our connections grow even stronger.

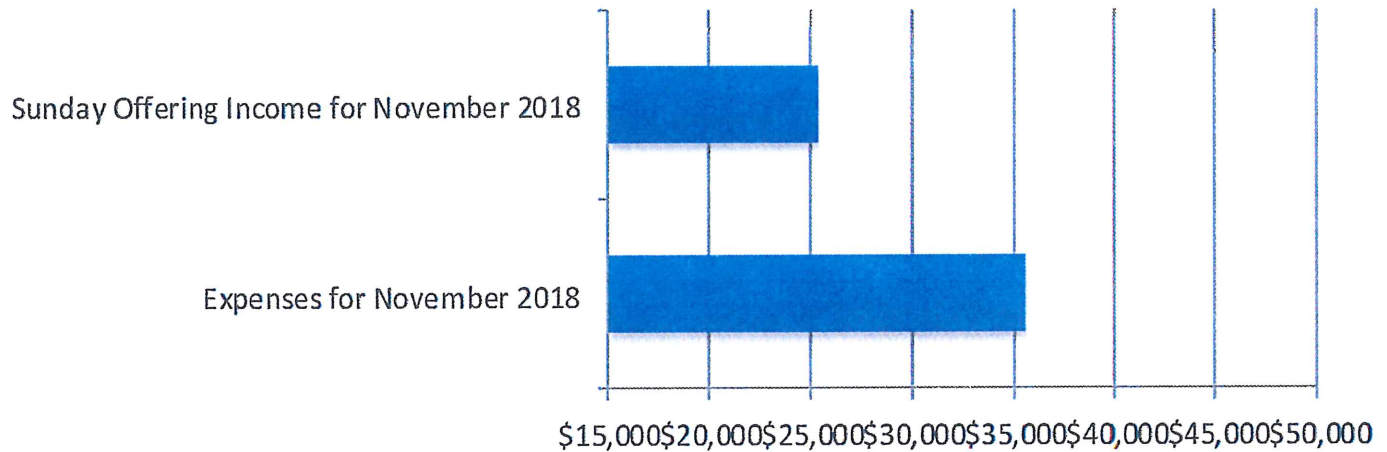
In 2015, members were asked to complete a basic questionnaire to indicate their interests and talents. That information is maintained in a data base called Shepherds Staff. The Council wants to update and expand that questionnaire.

In the next month or so, I will be working with the Council to develop an updated questionnaire. The goal is to have it distributed and returned this spring. Additional updates and details as we move forward will be provided.

Serving and sharing talents and interests is an opportunity for each of us to have a conversation, share stories, and make new friends.

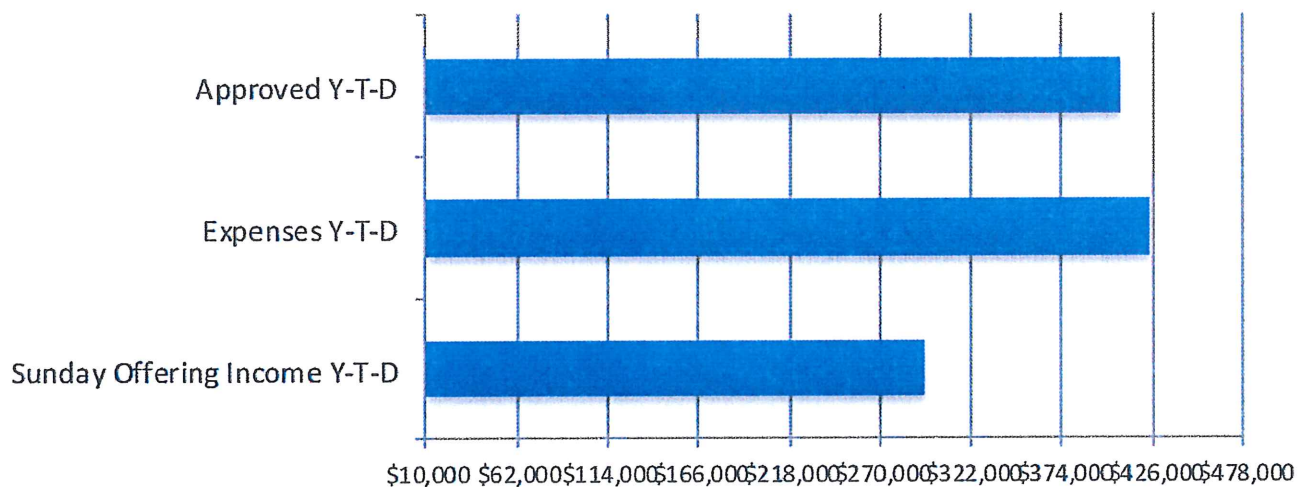
♦ Financial Figures (November)

Financials November 2018



	Expenses for November 2018	Sunday Offering Income for November 2018
Series1	\$35,593	\$25,388

Financials November 2018 YTD



	Sunday Offering Income Y-T-D	Expenses Y-T-D	Approved Y-T-D
Series1	\$295,523	\$423,747	\$407,773

Our ministry to teenage Christians not only embraces the uniqueness of each individual, but the realities, challenges, and celebrations of teen life. Currently there are about half a dozen young people who attend youth group and youth activities. These same youth are volunteer mentors to younger children, they participate in worship, and they are the first to show up and be present when help is summoned. I am proud to call these young people my friends. They are a joy to be near and to know. During the ELCA Youth Gathering this past summer, those tight relationships bonded in truth and honesty. The theme for the gathering was "This Changed Everything." Having Christ come into the world, to meet each person where they were, to transform those lives, heal the sick, be present through everyday life, to challenge the culture of the time by defying the culture of the time; Christ is ever present today. As He walks with us and teaches us by His example, we are called, as His children to go out into the world to love and serve it...one relationship at a time.

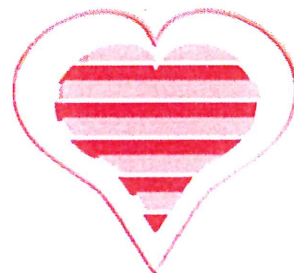
I have witnessed the spiritual growth in our teens this past year. The trust shared, is sacred. The experiences shared are memorable and honor our Savior's command: "Go. Love your neighbor as yourself." Our teens live the Lord's command each and every day; uniquely and wonderfully.

COMING UP...

Winter Retreat, 30 Hour Famine, Beach retreat and more in store for our youth in 2019!



Please send the CYFM director your new school/college address! Care Packages will be mailed out for Valentine's Day!



♦ Kids' Club, Music & Worship Notes Submitted by James Alfieri,

KIDS' CLUB SUNDAY!

Our children are ministered to each and every week by loving and caring Christian adults. Thematic story and play along with learning new songs encourage faith to grow!



**Kids' Club
Wednesday
meets the 1st
Wednesday of the
month!**

**Kids' Club Sunday meets
Meets every Sunday at 9:15 AM**



KIDS' CLUB WEDNESDAY!

Our ministry to elementary age children continues to grow! Each month over a dozen children gather for a thematic story, music, games and crafts! Zion's children's ministry has reached into the local neighborhood to invite and include those who are looking for an alternative "fun space" for their children to attend. Rooted in Biblical text and story, KIDS'CLUB offers an opportunity for children to grow in relationship with others and with Christ.

Happy 2019! Here are some New Year highlights in store for the music ministry at Zion:

- ⇒ The Yamaha baby grand piano has arrived! I am so excited to share it with all of you!
- ⇒ Updated Worship and Music Arts page on the Zion Lutheran Church website. Check it out!
- ⇒ **Zion Musik Concert Series.** Monthly Sunday afternoon concerts. If you would like to sponsor a concert, please see James. Upcoming artists include: The Pennsylvania Flute Choir, Pianist Maria Corley and The Isosceles Trio (piano, clarinet and cello). Look for the flyer on the music page of the church website.
- ⇒ Organ recitals. Look for a schedule in the near future!
- ⇒ "Assistant Organist of the Day" experiment. I encourage you to read the attached article from ALCM *in tempo* 2016, No. 2.



I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Zion family!

*I truly feel God has led me to this position and has tremendous
blessings in store for our future!*

I look forward to serving Him through our musical gifts! Soli Deo Gloria

Assistant Organist of the Day

by Vincent M. Ryan

It is not news to consider the dwindling number of organists among us. Countless hours have been spent locally, regionally, and nationally trying to address the issue. The American Guild of Organists, for example, includes a Committee on the New Organist, whose purpose

is to create the materials and means for engaging and developing new organists, as well as to develop and promote programs and age-appropriate materials to introduce them to the organ and enable their development as organists. The committee oversees the presentation of POEs [pipe organ encounters] and POE+s in addition to PipeWorks programs. The committee develops educational opportunities and presentations to introduce non-organists of all ages to the organ.¹

I have wrestled with this question and presented numerous workshops for children to introduce them to the pipe organ. The congregation I serve is fortunate to have a pipe organ that is easily accessible for workshops with children. Students have a chance to sit at the console, play notes, push pistons, view the inside of the pipe chamber, learn about the parts of a pipe, and take home a custom-made coloring book. Children enjoy touching things. They even get the chance to hold sample pipes. At the organ workshop during Vacation Bible School last summer, 70 children (and a handful of adults) learned a little bit about this majestic instrument in the sanctuary.

"My favorite part of sitting at the organ was getting to press the buttons to set up the sounds for the songs."

—Jonah, age seven

As a follow-up to the VBS workshop, I invited children to sit with me one or two at a time at the console during worship. Thus commenced our "Assistant Organist of the Day" experiment. It has been very successful. How am I measuring success? Here are three indicators:

- An announcement was made at the end of August and a sign-up sheet posted on a bulletin board. Students began signing up immediately. From the first Sunday in September through Dec. 20, an assistant organist or two has been sitting on the bench next to me.
- The sign-up sheet has had to be replaced twice because it was full.
- Adults are beginning to sign up, too.

The enthusiasm is spreading through the Sunday school classrooms, into the sanctuary, and into students' homes. These assistant organists share about their experiences:

- "I wasn't nervous since I wasn't playing. I liked pushing the stops, the notes, and the chimes. It was fun. I would definitely do it again" (Bradley, age nine).

- "I liked watching how fast Mr. Ryan's hands and feet were moving on the organ. I usually get nervous when I am in front of a whole group of people. It was hard to sit up straight without a back rest for such a long time" (Jonah, age seven).

- "[This is a] great way to inspire the next generation of church musicians. And my son looks forward to going to church!" (Karen, parent).

Perhaps the greatest measure of success came one Sunday about 6 weeks into the experiment. I was playing the postlude when out of the corner of my eye I noticed five children nearly running across the sanctuary to stand behind me and watch. Some of them made themselves quite at home and slid right onto the bench. (An endearing comment: after about 30 seconds, one of the young ladies looked up at me and asked, "When are you going to be done playing?") Adults have also enjoyed being an assistant.

Assistants actually do not need any preparation, and I try to tailor the experience to the person. Generally, however, they do the following:

- turn the organ on and off;
- prepare the next hymn, and stay a step ahead of the worshipping congregation;
- push pistons, especially the "general cancel" at the end of each piece;



- select individual stops;
- activate the zimbelstern;
- turn pages, if confident; and
- give pitches to the pastor for intonation.

This is also an opportunity to help younger children follow the liturgy. Advent Lutheran Church has plenty of service music, which keeps us busy. During the Scripture readings the assistant and I follow along, and I encourage them to say the responses. At the sermon we always take a break from the organ bench and sit down away from the console. Assistants are thoroughly engaged during the entire worship, more so than when sitting in the pew. To date, we have had zero

issues with lack of attention or misbehaving.

At the conclusion of worship each student is seated for a picture on the bench, and they receive an official "Assistant Organist" certificate. The picture is posted in a very visible place in the church and, more importantly, a copy is mailed to the assistant with a thank you note within one day. Children especially enjoy receiving mail specifically addressed to them.

There is much support and cooperation from our pastor and the congregation for this project. We are blessed to enjoy an environment of grace (and a certain degree of tolerance), which

"When I saw how truly appreciative the children were as they sat at the organ during the service, I decided to sign up—and never regretted it! I was struck again by how a professional makes it all seem so easy when in fact, the training over the years is part of the skill that leads to smooth transitions during the service parts."

—Jean, adult

goes a long way toward fostering learning and excitement not only among the assistants but also in the congregation at large.

Part of this experiment includes being quite vulnerable to "accidents." Practically speaking, you never know what might happen at the console, especially with younger students. Consider, for example, what if the assistant slipped off the bench onto the pedals? Or an overly enthusiastic youngster just wants to play?

At the end of the day, success is measured in the form of engaged members of the worship assembly and a "thank you." In the long term, maybe one of these students will begin taking lessons. Or maybe, if they are not a musician, they will become a supporter of music. At the very least they will continue to develop a love of music that will last a lifetime.

Vincent M. Ryan has been minister of music at Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville, Penn., since January 1997.

1. The American Guild of Organists, "Committee on the New Organist," accessed December 2, 2015, <https://www.agohq.org/education/committee-on-the-new-organist/>.

♦ Women Of Zion, Adult Faith Formation

*These activities are open to all women in Zion and their friends.
As we begin a new year we invite you to join us! Be a friend, make a friend!*

*******WOZ Events for JANUARY & FEBRUARY...Mark your calendar!*******

Comforter Ministry - Monday, January 7, 9AM in Kitchen
Monday, February 4, 9AM in Kitchen

Comforters/quilts are made from donated sheets and given to Lutheran World Relief and local needy. Clean sheets may be placed in the WOZ bin across from the mailboxes.

Yarn Ministry - Sunday, January 6 & 20, 1PM in Parlor
Sunday, February 3 & 17, 1PM in Parlor

Prayer shawls and chemo hats are on display across from the mailboxes and available for you to share with someone who needs their comfort. Please sign the attached sheet!

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! -Psalm 133:1

May your new year be filled with JOY as you live each day in the love of Jesus!

Faith Formation Opportunities for Adults

Sunday Scholars Class: Every Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Parlor

Experience the historical background and meaning of the Old and New Testaments through video presentations by biblical scholars and lively discussions that relate what you learn to life in the here and now.

Wired Word Class: Every Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Social Room

The Wired Word provides adult Sunday school lessons that confront the news with Scripture and hope as well as spark and inspire meaningful discussions. Join a multigenerational group of folks with inquiring minds who tackle together everyday life and faith issues that arise from current events.

Parent Café: The first Sunday of every month at 9:15 AM in the room just past the stairs to the Social Room

THE PARENT CAFÉ provides a safe place to share the joys and challenges of parenting in today's world. Join us each month for stimulating conversation and delicious coffee or tea.

♦ Bible Study, Social Outreach Submitted by Randy Miller

Bible Study



**All are invited to Bible Study on Tuesday mornings
from 9-10:30 (beginning again on Jan. 8)!
Even if you haven't come before, you are
more than welcome!
Just come as you are (with your Bible!)**

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Did you know that there are things that you can do to help yourself, while at the same time help Zion and members of our community. That's right - and it's easy to do! At Zion, we can do it through Community Aid and Park City Diner.

We've all seen the Community Aid Box at the entry to our parking lot on Cooper Ave. Your donations of gently used clothing can go a long way to help you, Zion and others in our community. Really!? It can help you?! Well of course! It helps you get rid of some of that unwanted clutter in your home and closets. OK, so how can it help the community and Zion? Well, the donations that you make are sold at the Community Aid store on Columbia for a fraction of the price that new clothing costs. It helps people in need have nice clothing to wear. And as for Zion, for each pound donated in the box, Zion gets a small donation.

OK - cool! But what about Park City Diner?? We certainly know how it benefits us - a great meal at a reasonable price. But how does it benefit Zion and the community? Well, if you have a Park City Diner card, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Zion. If you don't have one, ask Anne. I am sure she can get you one. As for the community - do you know how many people Park City Diner employs??!! Ok, that's a stretch, but I'm sure the staff appreciates your business and tips.

So, how much do these organizations bring in? Well, I cannot itemize it, but I am told that during 2018, we received \$204 from the organizations combined. Not a large sum of money, but every little bit helps. Some of that money was designated to your Outreach Team, and all of that was used to support local charities.

So if you want to share some lightly used items with Community Aid or have a good, inexpensive meal at Park City Diner, please do so!

Your Outreach Team wishes you a healthy and prosperous 2019.

♦ Food Pantry *Submitted by Diane Gerlach*

In November, the pantry served 163 families of which 209 were children; 374 adults; 94 seniors for a total of 677 persons served. Clients may visit the pantry once a week, either Monday or Wednesday...an average of 75-100 families visit the pantry each week.

"Thank you" to our Zion members who contributed 135 pounds of food items to the pantry. "Thank you" to the Zion members who continue to contribute financially to the pantry. **Monetary contributions help the pantry to purchase food items** not regularly donated as meats, eggs in addition to the purchase of "high demand" items as cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, soups, and fruits. Financial contributions also allow the pantry to purchase food items at the Central Penn Food Bank once a month at greatly reduced prices and at local stores when needed items are on sale.

Due to the closing of Darrenkamps, Mount Joy..... fresh produce is now being purchased through your financial contributions.

Currently, requested food items are: cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, canned corn, canned fruit, boxed pasta, elbow macaroni, egg noodles, chunky peanut butter, jelly, canned spinach, canned mixed vegetables, canned corn, canned kidney beans, canned carrots, canned tomatoes, canned

pineapple, canned peaches, canned fruit cocktail, canned chicken noodle soup, canned/jar spaghetti sauce,...**NO GREEN BEANS**, please!!! We are overstocked with green beans!!!!

During the month of November.... Giant Mount Joy donated 479 pounds of bread and bakery items and 332 pounds of food items; **Weis Market in Columbia donated 726 pounds** of bread and bakery items; **Weis Market Stony Battery Road donated 827 bakery items and 53 pounds** meat products; **S. Clyde Weaver donated 132 pounds of** bakery item; **Stauffers of Rohrerstown** donated 22 pounds of food items. **The pantry purchased 6,006 pounds of food from the Central Penn Food Bank and 3,216 pounds from local grocery stores.** The pantry received **974 pounds of free food items** from **Community Action Program**. In addition to the above donations and purchases, **10,292 pounds came from the community which includes donations from the churches, schools, businesses, social and civic organizations and private individuals.** The pantry also received **\$2,278. in grocery store gift cards.**

Welcome to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Petersburg... they have joined the list of churches contributing food

items to the pantry!

Sixty-four volunteers gave 575 hours during the month of November. The pantry is a complete volunteer effort, operating with a full non-paid staff. **Many volunteers "work behind the scenes" on days other than "open" days of Monday and Wednesday.** There are "pick-ups" of staples, fresh produce, and bakery items made throughout the week at the various businesses. In addition, there is an office staff documenting the donations received, clients served and completing other required reports for the Central Penn Food Bank. We could not provide this important community service without our volunteers! Our clients are very appreciative of the time the volunteers willingly give with a true servant's heart and a smile!

AND, the pantry would not be able to provide this program to the Hempfield residents without the outreach mission of Zion with the use of **Zion's property**. This mission is a witness of God's hands, feet, heart, and love in action! **In appreciation, the pantry contributed \$500. to Zion in December for utility use.**

Stop by to **visit the community pantry "in action" any Monday or Wednesday morning or see Diane Gerlach for a tour.** Thank you! Together we will feed the hungry!

♦ Connecting with Others, Community Meal Submitted by Linda Bear

THANK YOU...

- ♦ *To all who've purchased gift cards this year.. THANK YOU for helping our youth raise over \$900.00 for our ZYM Project Fund! These monies help get our youth to the tri annual gathering or a planned mission/servant trip! From ZYM*
- ♦ *Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia. I have placed it so I can see it every day and think of all my friends at Zion. Love all of you. -Arlene Miller*

CONDOLENCES TO...

- ♦ *Jon Wright & family on the death of his brother, David, on November 22.*
- ♦ *Adele King & family on the death of her uncle, Leon Deschl*
- ♦ *Dave Klepper & family on the death of his mother, Barbara, on Dec. 23.*

CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

- ♦ *Philip & Shanna Smeltz, and Darlene Smeltz, on the birth of their daughter, and granddaughter, Stella Mae, on October 30.*

COMMUNITY MEAL

Want a way to experience "the wonderful grace of God and the love of all?" And the connections! All the connections - with God, with others, with connecting others with God! Get involved in 2019, volunteer, and open your eyes to God's love in action!

I feel so fortunate to be one who gets to see the big picture from start to finish, and what a picture it is! It takes a lot of busy hands and loving hearts to make sure just one meal is ready to be served, and I am grateful for each and every person who takes part! Just look at this list of helpers for our Thursday, December 13th meal - Connie Alsedek, Dave Albin, Linda Bear, Jim Bear, Colton Bear, Melissa Bear, Cathy Benedict, Pastor Caruana, Joanne Grim, Gloria Grube, Mary Hetrick, Jesse Landis, Randy Miller, Janet Musselman, Dolly Overly, Bill Piper, Dawn Reinhart, Kevin Reinhart, Jo Stone, Dottie Wauls and Don

Wierschke. What a crew! Thanks everyone!

Thanks go especially to Dave Albin who entertained our guests with some Christmas songs during the dinner. We had table centerpieces, a game, some group singing, and an elf who shared candy canes along with good conversation, prayers and lots of hugs to share!

Please know the meal is ready for you to share also. Church members are invited to join our community of guests and spend some time getting to know all the people who attend. Our 2019 meals are scheduled for the second Thursday in the months of February, April, June, October and December. We look forward to seeing you there!



COMMUNITY MEALS
LOVE IN ACTION

♦ Faith Statement Submitted by Dave Dumeyer

"A.L.S." I doubt there are fewer dreaded combinations of letters than these three. This diagnosis of ALS—amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease—is a death sentence. There is no cure, no treatment as yet to send it into remission. The average patient with ALS survives for two to five years. There is a progressive loss of neuromuscular functions that lead to stiffness of limbs, lack of feeling in the extremities. A halting gait, slurred speech, the inability to talk eventually begins. Later, there is lack of ability to move, compromised breathing and swallowing. Dementia might occur in some cases. Ultimately so much stops functioning that death occurs. It is a horrible, devastating disease that impacts families. And no one knows what triggers it; it just happens.

So it is with our younger daughter Jennifer who, at age 46, became a patient with ALS. A warm person with a beautiful smile, a beloved pre-K teacher, mother of three and devoted wife. And a follower of Jesus Christ. (That last is vitally important.)

Jen had always been physically active. At age 45 she was running two to three miles amidst a busy schedule of teaching and a bustling household. One year later, in May 2018, she received the fateful news from one of the foremost neurologists at the University of Pennsylvania. Donna and I were with her and listened as a machine picked up the scrambled crackling of neurons firing out of sync, sure signs of ALS. We all cried together. As the news spread throughout our family, her friends, the community and the church, the outpouring of love and support was unimaginable.

As a Christian, the questions that loom over our thinking on this tragedy are these: "Why did this happen? How can a loving GOD even allow this to happen?" In the back of our minds they haunt us.

My answer to the first is, I don't know why this happened. GOD created a world of beauty and order. And yet mankind has brought disorder to the world. Our bodies are not perfect. Each of us has genetics that predispose us to certain illnesses. There are things in our natural environment that can sicken us. And then there is just dumb luck, the law of averages randomly playing out. I have no idea which one or number of these things impacted our daughter's health. But I do know that GOD, who wants our happiness and peace, did not cause this.

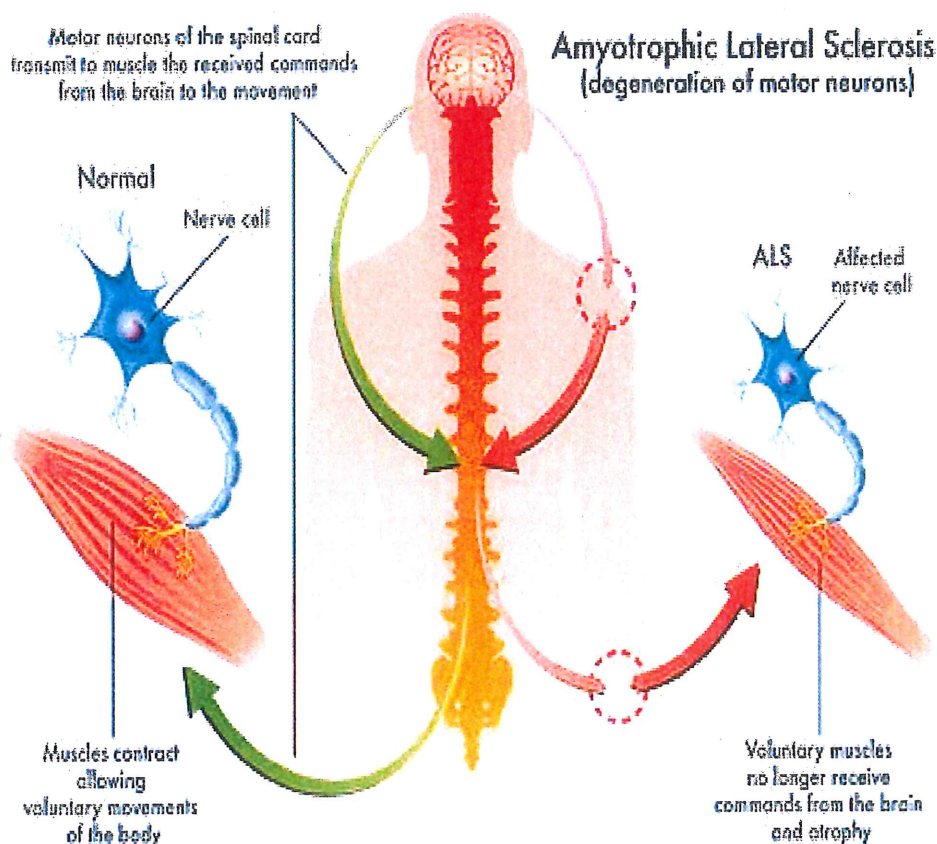
Such questions lead us into examining our beliefs. How do we pray? Is it for miracles? What if a miracle doesn't happen? There are some that might think disease is brought about because of some awful sin we have committed. Others might suggest that miracles won't happen if we don't pray hard enough, without defining "hard enough." I pray for a miracle. (Cont'd on pg. 15)

♦ Faith Statement *(Cont'd from page 14)*

My hope for our daughter is in GOD. I do NOT expect GOD to cause a remission of this disease in an instant, although I never doubt that he can do this. But why a miracle for her and not the thousands of others with ALS. The miracle for which I pray is that the medical researchers soon will unlock the secrets of the disease and discover its cure. We pray also for strength and patience for Jen and her family until that day arrives. And I pray that whatever the outcome might be, Jen's life will be a testimony to GOD and Jesus Christ.

Jen has told us that GOD is in control of her life. She has already been blessed by the outpouring of love from those who know her. If her life can touch so many in this way, GOD is even now bringing about His Kingdom. One day, we will all stand pure and perfect in the light of our Savior and Redeemer. Against that, ALS cannot prevail.

“And we know that GOD causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” Romans 8:28 (New Living Version)



♦ From Our ChildFund Sponsee, Brenda

Hello Zion Lutheran Church! Praise God!

I am very grateful for the letter and birthday card I received wishing me happy birthday. You have been very lovely to me and I desire to have my daily prayers to God to always bless you. I am well and healthy in Uganda. Today we are celebrating world teachers day. I shall be grateful hearing from you again. God bless you all.

-Brenda Alimo



WHAT IS CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL?!?

Our Vision

A world in which children realize their rights and achieve their potential.

Our Mission

HELP deprived, excluded and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

PROMOTE societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

ENRICH supporters' lives through their support of our cause.

♦ January Celebrations



		9	Mallory Trupe
		11	Dave Klepper
		12	Megan Bilbrough
		12	Nate Myers
		13	Julia Grove
		17	Al Ramer
		19	Lisa Bernhard
		19	Dylan Gromen
		20	Jayann Leibley
		20	Jess Wise
		22	Emma Baumgardner
		22	Dolly Overly
		25	Anna Benedict
		26	Jonathan Youssef
		27	Millie Gundel
1	Collin Donnan		
1	Darlene Smeltz		
2	Melissa Ingersoll		
3	Soren Gronholm		
3	Sarah Laliberte		
3	Eric Searle		
5	Pamela Gunzenhauser		
5	Kelsey Pfautz		
6	Randy Miller		
6	Jordan Provanzo		
6	Amber Swade		
7	Dianne Coons		



HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

		1	Joan Mays	26	Megan Landis
		1	Lisa Nelson	29	Rylie Kearon
		1	Daniel Rainar	30	Pamela Gunzenhauser
		1	Catherine Reider	31	Aimee Censier
		1	Betty Stoner		
		3	Burnell Hostetter		
		4	Allie Provanzo		
		10	Emma Golihew		
		15	Kevin Ramer		
		21	Ty Myers		
		23	Justin Propst		
		23	Judy Traup		
1	Dave Albin				
1	Al Alsedek				
1	Linda Bear				
1	Donna Dumeyer				
1	Bill Flood				
1	Barb Gerke				
1	Diane Gerlach				
1	Gloria Grube				
1	Steve Haun				
1	Phil Houseal				



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5	Nate & Dani Myers (18th)
20	Bill & Julia Grove (57th)
20	Doug & Connie Grow (57th)
24	D.J. & Deb Korn (33th)
28	Dave & Dottie Wauls (52nd)



♦ February Celebrations



1	Ashton DiNardi	8	Matthew Rickert	26	Rebecca DiPerna
1	Jim Paternoster	14	Mary Cupach	26	Jessie Snavelly
1	Jeff Quinn	14	Kelly Kline	27	Miriam Janisewski
3	Bill Barry	15	Ed Blough	27	Juliette Moore
3	Meghan Brady	16	Bill Grove	27	Brad Sherwood
3	Rachael Grube	19	Michael Adams	28(29)	Maddox Miller
3	Allie Provanzo	20	Kurt Wildasin		
4	Evan Benedict	20	Marlin Zimmerman		
4	Harry Musselman	21	Ava Gunzenhauser		
5	Alec Martin	21	Marissa Martin		
6	Dave Dumeyer	21	Jeff Thompson		
6	Riley Klepper	22	Brent Andrew		
		22	Emilia Gronholm		
		23	Doug Rhoads		
		24	Jesse Landis		
		25	Devin Leibley		
		25	Kacey Moore		
		25	Amy Thompson		
		26	Aiden DiNardi		



HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!

1	Judy Brady	13	Kevin Smeltz
1	Alison Long	16	Matt Adams
2	Pat Brady	17	Ken Unger
7	Joshua Houseal	18	Bryce Burfete
10	Jaden Myers	19	Emilia Gronholm
12	Melissa Grube	21	Cathy Shirk
		22	Jason Myers
		23	Jack Barley



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

3	Chad & Kate Gunzenhauser (12th)
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BLESSINGS TO ALL FOR A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
2019!

A collection of decorative stars and sparkles of various sizes and orientations, scattered around the central text.

*Happy
New Year*
★ 2019

Church Staff

Rev. Barbara Caruana, Interim Pastor

James Alfieri, Director of Music & Worship Arts, email: jcalfieri@yahoo.com—216-313-1381

Jeff Engroff, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries: jeffengroff@comcast.net—717-606-2266

Diane Gerlach, Ministry Assistant, email: dlsgerlach@comcast.net—717-682-2206

Anne Rankin, Parish Administrator, email: zionluth@comcast.net—717-945-4585

Dave Albin, Worship Technology Assistant, email: dcalbin@juno.com—717-333-4564

Brian Bourassa, Sexton (AM)

Tom Miller, Sexton (PM)

2019 Church Council

(Voting Members & Ministry Team Liaisons)

Adele King, President

Mark Coons (Vice Pres./Personnel)

Dave Dumeyer (Property)

Joel Janisewski (Outreach)

Dave Wise (Finance & Stewardship)

Dave Albin (Faith Formation)

Mark Rosen (Worship & Music)

Riley Klepper (ZYM)

(2019 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

Randy Miller, Social Outreach

John Hay, Finance

TBD, Personnel

TBD, Property

Darrell Gerke, Stewardship

Jean Pretz, Worship & Music

Dolly Overly, Prayer Team

Open, Parish Fellowship

Hempfield Area Food Pantry Staff

Amos & Mellie Geib, Managers

David Bleil, Board President/Manager

Diane Gerlach, Vice-President

Roz Flannelly, 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.

March/April Newsletter Deadline: Deadline February 15

Worship: 8 AM & 10:30 AM

Faith Formation For All Ages: 9:15 AM