

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



**Sunday School - 1875
Organized - 1876
Incorporated - 1899**

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2013

Annual Meeting, February 9, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT	PAGE
Agenda	3
Parish Staff/Parish Council/Parish Leaders	4
Congregational Meetings Minutes	5-7
Council Report	7
Stewardship/ President's Report	8-9
Membership / Call Committee	10
Care Corp/ Cradle Roll Report	11
Parish Statistics	12
Property Committee Report/ Altar Guild	13
Finance Report	14-15
Budget	16-18
Giving Step Report	19-20
Contribution Account Balances	21
Endowment Report/ Church Policy	22
Outreach	23
Culinary	24-25
Worship & Music Committee Report	26
Parochial Report	27-28
Sunday School Report	29
Cleaning Angels Relay for Life/ Food Baskets	30
Year End Letter	31



AGENDA

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 2014

- I. "O Zion Haste" – last hymn in service
- II. Establish quorum – pass around sign in sheet
Opening devotions –
- III. Introduction of Church Council and welcome of visitors – George Taylor
Council: Jim Batman, Judy Brennan, Deb Davies, Mary Kay Davis, Ron Dietrich, Rochelle Evanousky, Paul Fegley, Phil Gerace, John Haldeman, Ernie Henritzky, Gerry Zeigler
Staff: Melody Casler – Parish administrator; Dave Gensure – treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty – financial secretary
- IV. Adoption of minutes of February 2013 and December 2013 meetings
- V. Reception of financial reports
Treasurer – Dave Gensure
Financial secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty - Giving step report
Audits – Bob Jones
Motion to accept the financial reports
- VI. Reception of other reports
Please introduce your team/committee members.
Any additional information to report?
Any questions?
Motion to accept the reports
- VII. State of the congregation
Attendance report
Giving step report
End-of-the-year letter
Goals for 2014
- VIII. Old business
 1. Adoption of ELCA proposed changes to congregational constitution
A motion from Council to table changes for further review.
- IX. New business
 - 1.
- X. Adjournment and closing devotions



PARISH STAFF 2014

Interim Pastor
Sandra Mehalko, Parish Musician
Melody Casler, Parish Administrator
David Gensure, Treasurer
Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary
Kimberly Eckert and Sandra Graham, Sextons

	Term	Ending	Position/Committee
George Taylor	2nd	12/31/14	President/Fin/Property/PERT
Phil Gerace	1 st	12/31/16	Vice president/Evangelism
Rochelle Evanousky	2nd	12/31/16	Secretary/Christian Education/Adult
Jim Batman	1 st	12/31/15	Endowment/finance
Judy Brennan	2nd	12/31/14	Outreach/Joyful noise/Flower ministry
Deb Davies	2nd	12/31/16	Christian Education/Youth
Ron Dietrich	2nd	12/31/16	Property Comm. Chair
John Haldeman	1 st	12/31/15	Worship/Adult Ed
Ernie Henrtitz	1 st	12/31/14	Christian Ed/Saturday worship
Mary Kay Davis	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Cradle roll
Paul Fegley	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Culinary
Gerry Ziegler	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Culinary

PARISH LEADERS

Catechetical Coordinator – Deb Davies
Christian Education/Youth Leader –
Christian Education/Adult Leader –
Youth program leader –
Property Committee Chair – Ron Dietrich
Altar Guild Director – Sandra Graham
Acolyte Director – Art Connely
Assistant Acolyte Director – Brenda Wertman
Head Usher – Earl Klein
Sunday Service Leaders – George Taylor, Ellsworth Davis, Mark Valentine
Track Rack Coordinator – Warren Schreffler
Parish Nurse - Gwen Evans, R.N.
Volunteer Coordinator –
Outreach Leader – George Taylor
Finance Committee Chair – Robert Jones

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tamaqua, PA
Congregational Meeting
February 10, 2013

The 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by president, George Taylor. We had a quorum with 37 recorded members.

John Haldeman offered an opening prayer.

Report of the Secretary: A motion to accept the minutes from the February 12, 2012 meeting was made by Paul Pecha with a second by Isabel Houser. All were in favor. A motion to adopt the minutes from the May 27, 2012 meeting was made by Darlene Fetterman with a second by Marlin Tirpak. All were in favor. A motion to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2012 meeting was made by Gerry Ziegler with a second by Ron Dietrich. All were in favor.

Financial Reports: Bob Jones reported that the audit team will be meeting shortly to review the books. Questions arose that needed to be answered by the Financial Secretary, therefore, Financial Reports were tabled until later in the meeting.

Call Process Update: Sandy Mehalko reported that the required 14 page report had been completed and sent to the synod. The team is working on 2 additional optional reports which will be submitted shortly.

George informed us that we were unable to make a satisfactory agreement with the candidate that the synod recommended as an "interim interim". Walter Weston informed us that Pastor Garbe told him that the synod has another candidate that will be reviewed. Until we secure someone, John Haldeman will fill in on Sundays, but a supply pastor will be used for Ash Wednesday and other Sundays when communion would be offered.

George requested all church members to read the article, "The Shrinking Church". He feels it is very pertinent to our current situation.

Exterior Restoration: Ells Davis gave an update on the status of the restoration. Phase 1 has been completed (the removal of the loose material). We are waiting to hear from CND from Bloomsburg who came on Wednesday to give estimates on patching or replacing the damaged areas of the church. We are also awaiting bids from other companies.

Lawsuit : George reported that the lawsuit is now in the hands of the lawyers as a settlement could not be agreed upon by both parties. It is currently in the pleading stage which could go on for 8 or 9 more months.

Pastoral Report: Our congregation was asked to call attention to Pastor Kistler's final report.

Financial Reports, continued: The Haldemans had asked a question about an amount of \$5 that was listed from the Rummage/Bake Sale Matching funds. Ann Marie Hadesty explained that the monies from the Rummage/Bake Sales go directly to Current (80%) and Outreach (20%). The \$5 shown was a missed amount so it was entered in that fashion and will be distributed appropriately.

Sandy Mehalko made a motion, with a second by Isabel Houser, to accept the Financial Reports. All were in favor.

Stewardship Committee: It was reported that 400 letters with pledge cards were sent to members, but only 50 responses were received. The purpose of the pledge cards is to help formulate a budget. We were reminded that stewardship is giving time, talent, and money to the service of the church.

Mutual Ministry: Judy Brennan gave an update. She reported that the terms of the current members are ending, and that new committee members will be appointed by a new pastor and the church council.

Laura Fulmer made a motion, with a second by Darlene Fetterman, to accept all reports. All were in favor.

Old and New Business: None reported.

Phil Gerace asked if the church council minutes would be available to members of the congregation. George said that they were posted on the bulletin board in the past, and would do so again, or they would be posted on the website after being approved and accepted at the meetings.

George reviewed the goals of the church for 2012 and shared the new goals for 2013.

He closed the meeting with a reading from Paul.

Judy Brennan made a motion, with a second by Marlin Tirpak, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Evanousky
Church Council Secretary

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Budget Meeting Sunday, December 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m. by president, George Taylor, who led us with an opening prayer.

There was a motion from the Congregational Council to adopt the 2014 Expense and Revenue Budgets as presented. Discussion and explanations of the budgets occurred.
Ayes - 29 Nays - 0 Abstention- 2 Motion passed

There was a motion to table voting on the Constitutional amendment of the ELCA directive made by Mary Ruth Taylor, with a second by Paul Fegley.
Ayes - 31 Nays - 0 Abstentions - 0 Motion passed

There was a motion from the Congregational Council to approve the updated Endowment Bylaws. Walter Weston was asked to explain the changes for the congregation. After a discussion period, a vote was taken. Ayes - 33 Nays - 0 Abstentions - 2 Motion passed.

It was announced that we have 2 members from council retiring: Walter Weston and Paul Pecha. Both men were thanked for their service by the congregations. The slate of potential candidates was presented: Mary Kay Davis, Paul Fegley, Phil Gerace, and Gerry Ziegler for first terms, and Rochelle Evanousky, Ron Dietrich, and Deb Davies for second terms. Ron Dietrich made a motion to close the nominations. This was seconded by Laura Fulmer. A paper ballot was taken with all candidates receiving more than the required number of votes needed to serve on council.

Sandy Mehalko updated us on the pastoral candidate and explained that the salary package was why he withdrew himself for consideration.

The idea of possibly using some of the Endowment Funds to supplement a pastor's salary was addressed. Various members of the Endowment Committee expressed their views as did several members of the congregation, both for and against its use. The paper ballot taken will only be used as a poll to see how the congregation feels about this. Before any money could be used, a specific package would have to be presented to the congregation for a vote.

The result of the poll to use the Endowment Funds was as follows:

Yes - 16, No-18, Unsure - 1

If the Funds were to be used, what is the maximum amount that could be used each year? \$10,000 - 3, \$15,000 - 9, \$20,000 - 3, \$25,000 - 0, \$30,000 - 1, Other - 0

Judy Brennan and Rochelle Evanousky reported on outside venues to possibly hold the annual meeting. The paper ballot showed 22 would like the meeting to remain at church, while only 8 would like to hold it at an outside venue; 3 abstained.

Jim Batman made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Laura Fulmer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Evanousky
Church Council Secretary

ZION CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2013

January: Revised church key policy;

February: Approved Youth Protection and Sexual Exploitation policies; approved money counting procedures; dissolved Mutual Ministry committee; approved development of Sunday School and alternative worship programs

March: Approved fundraising policy and appropriate forms; approved a 50-50 split for Goods N Stuff between current expenses and the Outreach fund

April: Approved the purchase of a riding mower for the cemetery; began exploring the possibility of a Spanish language service at Zion

May: approved a Bible study for women; approved the start of a Sunday morning prayer group; approved the Safe Use of Kitchen Facilities guidelines; approved the acceptance of a settlement to the pending law suit

June: Approved purchase of new scanner for the Parish Office; approved the start of a Saturday evening service; reviewed Goals for 2013

July: Reviewed the Instrument of Peace policy;

August: Approved a motion to seek a renter for the Parish Parsonage;

September: Approved changes in the Instrument of Peace and Fundraising policies; approved changes in the Cemetery Burial Policy; approved request for a Bible study program

October: Approved continued salary negotiations with Call candidate; approved Synod Benevolence of \$5,600 (same as past year); reviewed preliminary Expense and Income budgets

November: Noted that candidate had withdrawn from the Call process; approved Christmas Eve worship schedule; rehired Lamar Reed to clear snow from sidewalks; reviewed and approved changes to endowment bylaws; approved agenda for December budget meeting; approved a request to the Bishop to appoint an interim pastor; review and approved 2014 Expense and Income budgets

December: Appointed Ron Dietrich as Zion rep to district North Schuylkill Thrivent group; thanked Walter Weston and Paul Pechas for their years of service on Council; accepted Marlin Tirpak's resignation from the Call Committee; approved contact with Pastor Virginia Goodwin to serve as interim pastor at Zion;

George Taylor
Zion Church Council President

STEWARDSHIP 2013

Giving of time, talents and treasures is an important part of all Christian faiths. Giving is not just a financial concern. Developing stewardship in a congregation takes more than a once-a-year-plea for treasures. It's really an education matter — a spiritual matter — that needs to be addressed year-round. A task force of members reviewed our current stewardship efforts in 2012 and developed a stewardship strategy which was adopted by Church Council.

At the urging of the Stewardship Committee, Church Council commissioned a group of members to explore offering an alternative to our tradition Sunday worship service. The new service started in July supplements our proud history of traditional worship. Its purpose is to serve those who cannot get to a tradition Sunday service or those who do not find the tradition service to be meaningful to them. In studying "resurrection congregations," we found that many churches once close to extinction began offering alternative worship styles as part of their "revitalization" plans.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 2013

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

"Everything will turn out all right in the end, and if it is not all right, then it is not yet the end."
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Not too long ago, I sent the above Bible verse to our oldest son, Brandon, who was in the midst of changing jobs. He was more than a little discouraged and changing jobs in China is not as easy as changing jobs at home. Within days, he had three job offers. Eventually, he took one of the offers and settled down in Hong Kong.

The quote from "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" may actually be from Beatle John Lennon, according to a Google search. Both Bible verse and quote apply to goals our congregation set in the last year.

The Call: Interim Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Kistler left us last January. After several months of waiting, the Synod sent us a candidate. The Call Committee met with the candidate and recommended the candidate to Council. Council met with the candidate and began salary negotiations. Unfortunately, no agreement could be reached regarding salary and the candidate chose to end the Call process.

What did we learn? Churches the size of Zion may no longer be able to afford a full-time pastor — at least a pastor with a great deal of experience. We also learned that graduates coming out of seminary training may not be able to afford coming to smaller congregations like Zion due to debt accumulated during their training. Sharing pastors may become a necessity.

We have discussed using money from the endowment fund. A poll taken at the December 2013 budget meeting (16 for and 18 against) showed that the congregation is somewhat evenly split on the use of endowment funds to help support a pastor's salary. Obviously, this discussion will continue when the Synod sends us another candidate.

We hear reports of people saying "I'm not coming back to church until we have a full-time Lutheran pastor" or "I'm not coming back until we have a male full-time Lutheran pastor." My personal view is that anyone who says such things does not have the best interests of the church in his/her heart.

We have done amazing things here at Zion in the last three years – two of them under the direction of Pastor Jeffrey Kistler and the last year pretty much on our own. I hope you took the chance to read the wonderful end-of-the-year letter sent out by the Finance Committee and Church Council. (A copy is included in this annual report.)

While this congregation has refused to go into hibernation without a pastor, we have no intention of "going it alone." We fully recognize the need for an ordained leader, so we jumped at the opportunity to work with Pastor Virginia Goodwin as interim pastor. Pastor Goodwin will be with us three Sundays in months with four Sundays and four Sundays in months with five Sundays. She will be in the office one day a week. Appointments can be made to meet with her. She will also be doing visitations. She has been asked to help us develop stewardship and Christian education initiatives.

Visioning and/Exterior Restoration: Members of the property committee and volunteers from the congregation have done a wonderful job in patching much of the lower level areas. Much work remains to be done. Estimates received ran about \$450,000 to patch (not repair) the exterior. A "visioning" group met in 2012 and decided it best to wait until a pastor is called to continue discussions about the exterior and future of the current church facility.

Stewardship: Though a stewardship program was developed and presented to Council for approval, it has not been implemented. One of the items we have asked Pastor Goodwin to help us with in the coming months is putting a stewardship initiative into action.

Policy manual: We continue to update and develop congregation policy and keep it all together in one manual.

Membership: Much work remains to be done. All of these areas remain goals for 2014.

Christian education: Spiritual growth does not end with Confirmation. Our second request of Pastor Goodwin is to help us to develop a Christian Education program that reaches all age levels. We grow as a congregation as we grow individually as Christians.

Alternative worship: We began a Saturday evening service in July and it continues under the leadership of a remarkable seminary student, Cindy White, with the goal of moving the service more and more towards a contemporary style. We plan to add a digital video projector to the Social Hall and update our current sound system. We need to understand and accept that the “one size fits all” way of thinking about worship limits our ability to reach out to our community.

Pastor Goodwin served three years in a church that eventually closed. How come? Despite Pastor Goodwin urging that congregation to “get out there” and see why some churches were attracting new members while there’s was not, they chose not to. And so they closed their doors. I think we all understand that no more boats are coming from Europe full of Lutherans looking for a place to worship and call their church.

We have no intention of closing the doors here at Zion. While we have many issues to resolve, we also have many good people doing God’s work both in the congregation and community. My wish is that everyone in our congregation could experience the warmth, fellowship and caring that comes from choosing to get involved in some aspect of our work here in Tamaqua.

Granted, not everything is all right – we have work to do. But God has a plan for us. He has led us to wonderful people like Pastor Virginia Goodwin and Cindy White. Indeed, God has a plan for Zion.

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS FOR 2013

Call a pastor who meets the specific needs and visions of this congregation

Continue the work of the Visioning group and Exterior Renovation Task Force

Complete/update policy manual

Implement year-round stewardship program

Develop a membership strategy that targets

- welcoming and engaging new members
- involving young members in the congregation and community
- addressing the issue of inactive members
- engaging families of recently baptized children

Re-examine Sunday school options (program and time)

Initiate an additional worship service as an alternative to our traditional

Sunday service

Adopted by Church Council: Jan. 15, 2013

GOALS FOR 2014

Call a pastor who meets the specific needs and visions of this congregation

Implement a stewardship program

Explore and implement Christian education/discipleship programs to include

- Children/family
- Youth
- Adults

Develop a membership strategy that targets

- welcoming and engaging new members
- involving young members in the congregation and community
- addressing the issue of inactive members
- engaging families of recently baptized children

Seek a helper coordinator

Continue to update the congregational membership directory

Develop a family room next to the Gathering Room

Equip the Social Hall or Gathering Room for alternative worship.

Purchase and install a defibrillator and train up to 8 persons (staff and volunteers) how and when to use it.

Explore and implement opportunities to publicly promote the Gospel in Tamaqua.

Adopted by Church Council: Jan. 23, 2014

MEMBERSHIP-2013

Like many mainstream American congregations, Zion is experiencing a shrinking congregation. Instead of accepting a membership decline as inevitable, a Membership Committee is reviewing trends in our congregation and looking for ways to reach out to inactive members, to engage new members and families of recently baptized children and to involve our younger members in the congregation and the community.

During 2013, the membership group contacted over 120 inactive members by letter. The letters provided information about the activities of the congregation and asked if there was anything the church could do for the individual or family. It was decided that individuals would not be removed from the membership roll but rather given an "inactive" status and moved to special section of Church Windows.

Membership also sent out 240 post cards to members not seen frequently on Sunday about the current call process and the start of the Saturday service.

Later in the year, an attempt was made to help the Parish Administrator update the congregational directory. It has been noted that quite a few phone numbers are no longer in service and we get quite a few returns after a mailing has been done. Church attendees were asked during Advent and on Christmas Eve to update their church information.

Without a full-time or interim pastor, new membership classes have been on hold.

Call Committee Report

After all the necessary paperwork was completed by the call committee, the Synod sent a candidate to Zion. The committee met with the candidate twice and came to a consensus that the candidate was found to be superbly qualified. The candidate was referred to church council to be interviewed. The church council met with the candidate and unfortunately we were not able to come to an agreement about salary. The candidate chose to discontinue the process.

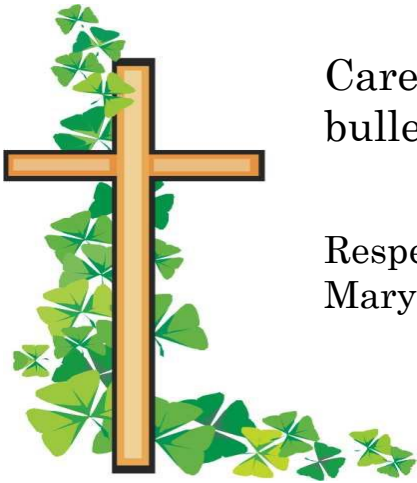
The call committee believes the candidate should have not been referred to Zion since the salary requirements were exceedingly beyond what Zion could afford or was willing to pay. Based on information the committee received after the fact, the synod was completely aware of Zion's financial status before they referred the candidate to the call committee. Moreover, Zion provided the synod and candidate all requested financial information in the Ministry Site Profile as an early step in establishing the call process.

The committee believes the process is flawed. It is an inefficient process with too much opportunity for wasting the time of the candidate, the committee and church council. The process needs improvement. Either the synod must do a more thorough job in vetting a candidate's salary requirements before referring a pastoral candidate to a church for consideration, or Zion must establish and communicate a salary range (minimum/maximum limits) to the pastoral candidate before an initial interview is scheduled with the committee. There must be an 'up-front' understanding between church council and the pastoral candidate that a compensation package is negotiable and developed based on several factors but church council is not generally able to exceed the upper limit of the salary range associated with the job opening. Zion now has a financial package in place to begin discussions with future candidates.

We want to thank all the members of the committee for the time they have already given to the process. Marlin Tirpak and Art Connely have asked to step down from the committee and we are welcoming Paul Derr and Walter Weston to continue the work we do in looking for a shepherd for Zion.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Mehalko and Dave Fetterman

Care Corp 2013



Care Corps members visited shut-ins and distributed bulletins to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ruth

Cradle Roll Report 2013

The Cradle Roll is a ministry that reaches out to newly baptized babies and their families. Zion is currently using the *Splash! Pack* series and presently has 21 infants enrolled. The Pack includes an age appropriate music CD and Parent Pages newsletters which are sent bi-monthly until the child is 3 years old. The purpose of the mailings is to provide fun and easy ideas for bringing faith into everyday life of infants and their families, connect church and families for support and encouragement and to help young children grow in faith from an early age. Cards are also sent on the anniversary of the child's baptism reminding parents of their baptismal promise.

If you know of a child baptized at Zion this past year, and not receiving the SPLASH! Pack mailing, please contact the church office.

Looking forward to serving Cradle Roll members and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Davis

PARISH STATISTICS

WORSHIP SERVICES

198	2005
162	2006
131	2007
117	2008
112	2009
108	2010
106	2011
106	2012
92	2013

SUNDAY SCHOOL

61	2005
68	2006
37	2008
20	2009
20	2010
15	2011
12	2012
50	2013

	2012	2013
Baptized Membership	963	963
Confirmed Members	619	614
Confirmed Members Who:		
Communed	278	284
Did Not Commune (of record)	341	330
Contributed	287	286
Did Not Contribute (of record)	332	328
Communed AND Contributed	226	213
Neither Communed NOR Contributed	148	258
Communed Did Not Contribute (of record)	27	51
Contributed Did Not Commune (of record)	105	81
Non-Confirmed Communing Membership	14	20
Members received by Baptism (Child)	8	9
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	12	2
New First Communicants	3	6
Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer		
(Baptized)	0	5
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	2
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by		
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	4	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	4	0
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	2	0
Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	4	0
(Confirmed)	3	0
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	2	6
(Confirmed)	1	2
Member Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0
Members who were taken by Death	8	8
Non-Member Deaths	4	0
Marriages	2	2



Property Report for 2013

INTERIOR

Family room: It is proposed that the Sunday school room adjacent to the Gathering Room be turned in to a Family Room with appropriate furniture and play equipment. The room would be used for parents who need a calming place. It would be equipped with a flat-screen video monitor so that the adults could follow the worship service.

Social Hall: Bids are being reviewed to install a digital projector and update the current sound system to accommodate the alternative worship service. The sound and video equipment will all be mounted in one centrally-located cabinet.

All emergency lighting fixtures have been tested, repaired and batteries replaced where necessary.

Handicapped lifts were inspected and repaired.

An additional downspout was added to the back of the church to address a leak problem in that area.

Shrubbery around church trimmed and dressed.

A changing table has been installed in the unisex bathroom.

The kitchen area passed inspection; a new fire extinguisher had to be installed.

Routine yearly maintenance to furnace and chimney has been completed.

Secured bids for oil delivery; awarded delivery to Rarick Oil.

EXTERIOR

We completed Phase 1 of the exterior restoration project in 2012 with the removal of all loose materials posing a safety threat to anyone walking by or parking near the church. Phase 2 involves getting estimates on the entire project and on specific areas of the building. We have an estimate of around \$450,000 to complete patching problem areas on the exterior. A Visioning Committee met in 2012 and suggested that the exterior work be put on hold until a permanent pastor is in place. Ron Dietrich proposed doing some lower-level patch work which was done in the summer and early fall.

CEMETERY

Council approved a request from Property to purchase a riding mower instead of hiring someone to mow the grass. The idea would be to recoup the cost of the mower in three years. Additional help is needed for cemetery maintenance. Rick Backman is serving as cemetery sextant. The burial policy was changed to include the cost of properly preparing and reseeding or resodding the grave.

THE PARSONAGE

The church has been approached to rent out the parsonage for June, July, August and September. Church Council is reviewing the request.



ALTAR GUILD REPORT

During the past year, we had six members serve on Altar Guild. Thank you for your faithful service.

We serve the Lord by preparing the altar for worship with the communion Sacraments.

We also take care of the paraments and fair linens.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a very special ministry and we wish to share this service with anyone willing to participate.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Graham, Coordinator

Zion Finance Committee Report 2013

The Finance Committee at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is comprised of Robert Jones, Chairperson; Steven Ristila, Vice Chair and, recording secretary; George Taylor, Council President; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Paul Pecha, Walter Weston and Council member Jim Batman. In February Mr. James McRoberts tendered his resignation from the Finance Committee and Jim Batman came on board to take his place.

We saw a need to update some policies and establish new ones in order to maintain fiscal responsibilities. In early 2013 an updated Money Counting Procedure was approved and not long after that a Fund Raising Policy was established. Later in the year it became apparent that with the investments of Endowment Fund being placed with Oppenhiemer the Endowment Committee should become a Sub-Committee of Finance. The Bylaws to reflect this were changed and approved by the Congregation at the December Finance meeting.

In March after discussion and serious comparison between three different providers a motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend Council contract with Verizon for the Church's Phone Plan.

A deal was reach with Goods N Stuff in May of 2011 to split profits 80/20 with 80% going to the Church and 20% for Outreach. As more emphasis has been placed on reaching out to the community there was consensus that the agreement had to be revisited. Therefore after discussion a motion was made and approved to make it a 50/50 split.

In May Finance Committee met with Property to discuss the purchase of the mower for the cemetery. Thru M & S Hardware the Church could buy the mower for 48 months interest free and also receive a 20% discount. Everyone seemed satisfied with this offer so Council approved the purchase.

As the Call Committee was meeting with a candidate these were some of the issues Finance was dealing with:

What salary can the church afford ?

Will Endowment funds be needed? If so, how much?

If the new minister doesn't live in the parsonage, how much pastoral care will be available?

What to do with the parsonage?

At this time these issues are still being discussed as we await a candidate to answer the Call.

In October the Budget for 2014 was approved and sent to Council for their review and approval. The budget was approved by the Congregation at the December Finance meeting.

Stewardship in 2014 remains a hot topic. It is essential for Stewardship to work with Finance. This will be a goal for 2014.

2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed for Weekly Budget:	\$3148.85
Budgeted Income needed YTD:	\$163,740.00
Budgeted Income Received YTD:	\$130,247.29
Budget Ahead/ (Behind):	\$ (33,492.91)
Budgeted Income Received YTD:	\$130,247.29
Budget Expenses: YTD:	\$121,379.10
Budget Actual Ahead/ (Behind)	\$8,868.19
Actual Income YTD:	\$158,215.89
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$134,987.20
Actual Ahead/ (Behind):	\$23,228.69

From the above figures you will see that Budgeted Income Received did not meet what was needed to meet the budget thus resulting in a shortfall of \$33,492.91. On a positive note Budgeted Expenses fell below Budgeted Income by \$8,868.19.

While we ended the year with a surplus of over \$23,000, this is not as good as it first appears. The Budget included the pastor's salary. If we had been paying a pastor for the full year and there was no change in Income we would be facing a \$33,492 deficit.

In the end of the year appeal letter that went out the week of Christmas we shared with you the Good News of some of the things that have happened here this past year. I would like to show how much you and your Church have shared our financial resources with others who, without us to help, would have to look to someone else to fill the void.

ELCA Committed Benevolence	\$5,604
Hazleton/Lehigh Mission Dist.	\$ 180
Outreach	\$3,653
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 664
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 315
Joyful Noise/Missionary	\$ 785
World Hunger	\$ 1,156
Harvest Home	\$ 334
Total	\$12,691

We are a blessed people as God uses our Church Family to make a difference in this world. Those are just the numbers and do not include the time and effort that people put into these projects to make them happen.

I will repeat what I said at the conclusion of last year's report. We face many challenges in the new year. Will we have an Interim Pastor or will there be an answer to the call for a new full time minister? No doubt costs will continue to rise in many areas. The Finance Committee will continue to make sure funds are spent wisely. Contributions to various funds in the way of memorials and honorariums to loved ones are appreciated. Again we thank the congregation for their continuing financial support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Jones, Finance Committee Chairperson

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2014 BUDGET

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$5,600.00	5,604.00	\$5,600.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$180.00	180.00	\$180.00
Total Commitment	\$5,780.00	\$5,784.00	\$5,780.00
 Pastor Expenses			
Pastor Salary	\$30,853.00	4,153.28	\$30,853.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$2,000.00	2,118.23	\$2,000.00
Pastor Health/Dental			
Pastor Other Insurance			
Pastor Pension	\$5,357.00	0.00	\$5,357.00
Pastor Social Security Allowance			
Pastor Continuing Education	\$500.00	35.00	\$500.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00	1,615.39	\$12,000.00
Pastor Furnishing Allow.			
Vacation Supply	\$1,000.00	8,059.62	\$1,000.00
 Total Pastor Expenses	 \$51,710.00	 \$15,981.52	 \$51,710.00
 Lay Staff Exp			
Parish Administrator	\$15,600.00	13,572.00	\$15,600.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$8,453.00	8,453.12	\$8,453.00
Maintenance Sexton	\$1,000.00	554.90	\$1,000.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$5,429.00	5,429.06	\$5,429.00
Service Sexton	\$0.00		\$0.00
Financial Secretary	\$2,400.00	2,400.06	\$2,400.00
Treasurer	\$3,000.00	2,999.88	\$3,000.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00	0.00	\$200.00
Grounds Keeper			
Sunday School Coord			
Medicare/Social Security Taxes			
 Total Lay Staff Exp	 \$36,082.00	 \$33,409.02	 \$36,082.00
 Administration			
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	1,389.32	\$1,500.00
Office Equipment	\$628.00	783.25	\$628.00
Mailings	\$500.00	982.85	\$700.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$800.00	818.00	\$800.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,400.00	1,355.00	\$1,400.00
Advertising & Media	\$200.00	294.00	\$200.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$500.00	40.00	\$500.00
 Total Adm. Exp.	 \$5,528.00	 \$5,662.42	 \$5,728.00

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014
Property			
Fuel Oil	\$20,000.00	22,365.60	\$20,000.00
Electricity	\$4,500.00	3,221.22	\$4,000.00
Phone	\$1,200.00	1,466.02	\$1,300.00
Internet	\$540.00	179.80	\$0.00
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$3,200.00	3,319.22	\$3,200.00
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	0.00	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$500.00	265.10	\$500.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$1,500.00	1,453.60	\$1,500.00
Total Property	\$31,940.00	\$32,270.56	\$31,000.00

FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED

Improvement Expenses			
Cemetery Maintenance	\$2,200.00	2,230.02	\$2,200.00
Organ Repair Expenses	\$480.00	0.00	\$480.00
Culinary/Kitchen			
Helping Hands/Pastor Discretion			
Total Fund Expense	\$2,680.00	\$2,230.02	\$2,680.00

Insurance

Employer Share Taxes	\$2,800.00	2,513.32	\$2,800.00
Insurance	\$15,000.00	15,194.00	\$16,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,000.00	786.00	\$1,000.00
Total Insurance	\$18,800.00	\$18,493.32	\$19,800.00

Worship and Music

Music	\$150.00	58.35	\$150.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$1,350.00	1,446.70	\$1,350.00
Communion Supplies	\$500.00	320.01	\$500.00
Candles	\$500.00	783.18	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$500.00	475.00	\$250.00
Bulletins	\$100.00	231.86	\$100.00
Acolytes	\$100.00	0.00	\$100.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$500.00	52.45	\$500.00
Ministry Materials	\$300.00	321.23	\$300.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$720.00	912.00	\$720.00
Total Worship & Music	\$4,720.00	\$4,600.78	\$4,470.00

Christian Education

Curriculum & Supplies			
Sunday School Supplies	\$500.00	14.97	\$200.00
Adult Education	\$500.00	184.96	\$500.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	89.34	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council	\$250.00	0.00	\$250.00
Vac. Church School	\$300.00	252.95	\$300.00
Total Christian Education	\$1,750.00	\$542.22	\$1,450.00

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014
Stewardship & Evang			
Offering Envelopes	\$2,500.00	1,970.06	\$2,500.00
Stewardship	\$500.00	0.00	\$500.00
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$3,000.00	\$1,970.06	\$3,000.00
Social Ministry			
Parish Nurse	\$100.00	0.00	\$100.00
Donations	\$300.00	200.00	\$300.00
Total Social Ministry	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS			
Scholarships			
Bank Charges	\$50.00	30.00	\$50.00
Special Events	\$300.00	125.23	\$300.00
Health Benefit Account			
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	79.95	\$750.00
Total Misc Budgeted Accounts	\$1,350.00	\$235.18	\$1,100.00
GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS	\$163,740.00	\$121,379.10	\$163,200.00
Non-Budgeted Misc Accts			
ELCA Benevolence		664.00	
World Hunger		1,156.00	
LWR		315.00	
Missionary/Joyful Noise		785.14	
Annuity Expense		0.00	
Harvest Home		334.00	
Misc Pass Through Expense		1,230.40	
Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts	\$0.00	\$4,484.54	\$0.00
FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED			
Culinary Expenses		\$3,848.19	
Helping Hands Expense		\$791.08	
Improvement Expense		\$426.50	
Ministerial Expense		\$329.00	
Outreach Expense		\$3,652.70	
Senior Choir Expense		\$0.00	
Scholarship Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted	\$0.00	\$9,047.47	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$163,740.00	\$134,911.11	\$163,200.00

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Giving Step Report

Giving Step Report: 01/01/2013 - 12/31/2013

Giving Range

\$0.00 - \$0.00	Count: 212
\$0.01 - \$52.00	Count: 86
\$52.01 - \$104.00	Count: 39
\$104.01 - \$156.00	Count: 15
\$156.01 - \$208.00	Count: 9
\$208.01 - \$260.00	Count: 9
\$260.01 - \$312.00	Count: 13
\$312.01 - \$364.00	Count: 10
\$364.01 - \$416.00	Count: 6
\$416.01 - \$468.00	Count: 1
\$468.01 - \$520.00	Count: 5
\$520.01 - \$780.00	Count: 12
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	Count: 13
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	Count: 7
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	Count: 12
\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00	Count: 3
\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00	Count: 1
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	Count: 2
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	Count: 1
\$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00	Count: 2
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	Count: 1
\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00	Count: 1
> \$6,240.01	Count: 2

Where do you fall on this chart of giving units in our congregation?

Granted, a “giving unit” varies from household to household. A husband and wife can be a giving unit. If only one is a member at Zion, he/she is a giving unit. Children with their own envelope numbers are giving units.

Let’s not quibble about giving unit designation nor should we dwell on the bottom numbers. Let’s look, instead, where we are as members of this congregation.

What would it take for each of us to move up one step this year? What would that mean to the congregation?

Not everyone comes to church every week. Some in fact only show up on Christmas and Easter and we’re just glad they do feel a need to worship with us on those Holy Days.

While worship is an important part of one’s spiritual life, we’re not going to criticize people who don’t worship regularly. Still, those who show up two times a year or once a month need to understand they have a financial responsibility to the congregation *every week* regardless of attendance. And unless they recognize and honor that financial responsibility, the church may not be here when they do choose to attend a service.

Stewardship is more than a financial matter – it’s a spiritual matter. Each of us must consider what God is calling us to do in terms of how we use our given gifts. How can we better use those gifts to benefit others in 2014?

Stewardship and spiritual growth are tied together. And so an emphasis on Christian Education and spiritual growth is an important goal for this congregation this year. Our growth as disciples need not end with First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Perhaps you will make it a personal goal this year to take advantage of spiritual growth opportunities offered by the Synod, Zion and other churches in the community.

Perhaps you will make it a personal goal this year to become a more active member of the congregation by becoming a Cleaning Angel, or a member of the Culinary Crew, or the Senior Choir, or the Rejoice and Sing chorus or the Property Committee. The list goes on and on. The rewards of involvement are many, but, unfortunately, few potatoes never experience that joy, the fellowship or sense of belonging that involvement brings.

Our growth as a congregation largely depends on your growth as a disciple. Make 2014 a year of growth.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Contribution Account Balances (January thru December 2013)

Account	YTD Balance
100 - Current	105,970.74
101 - Initial Envelope	234.00
102 - New Year's Day Envelope	135.00
103 - Birthday Envelope	507.00
105 - Improvement Fund	9,577.00
110 - Endowment Fund	4,199.50
116 - Oil Fund	4,854.94
120 - Scholarship Fund	40.00
121 - Vacation Bible School	185.00
125 - Flowers	454.00
131 - Benevolence	664.00
136 - Herald/ Bulletins	536.00
138 - Use of Facility	175.00
142 - Plate offering	3,909.97
147 - Joyful Noise Offering	785.14
150 - Candles	13.00
151 - Baccalaureate Service Offering	285.50
154 - Culinary	10,948.64
165 - Helping Hand Fund	30.00
166 - Cemetery	1,117.96
168 - All Saints	200.00
169 - Reformation	229.00
170 - Organ Fund	33.00
171 - Current Memorial/Honorarium	2,020.61
172 - Advent Envelope	237.00
173 - Christmas Envelope	2,588.00
174 - Thanksgiving Envelope	407.00
175 - World Hunger Fund	1,156.00
176 - Lutheran World Relief Envelope	315.00
177 - Ash Wednesday Envelope	310.00
178 - Lenten Envelopes	842.00
179 - Maundy Thursday Envelopes	225.00
180 - Good Friday Envelopes	138.00
181 - Easter Envelopes	1,768.00
182 - Ascension envelope	160.00
183 - Pentecost envelope	160.00
184 - Harvest Home	334.00
187 - Reimbursement	1,009.58
191 - Thrivent Fund	3,150.00
193 - Outreach	2,347.61
195 - Misc Pass Through Contribution	153.00
Total Giving Accounts	162,405.19

ENDOWMENT FUND 2013 REPORT

Our committee was formed to conservatively invest money contributed in honor/memory of loved ones. The major portions of the gifts given were donated by members in their wills.

Endowment grows by giving. The gains from our investment have helped our church to grow, pay bills and fund emergencies. Our gifts and investment returns were able to give back to our church -----\$239,661 within the past 10 years.

Everyone knows that interest and CD's has dropped below our inflation rate. Our goal is to give back 4 1/2 % of our average fund value every year. This year we decided to sell our two bond funds and then invest the proceeds in high dividend stock ETF's.

Also everyone knows that 2013 was the best stock market performance since 1997. We are happy to report that our returns for 2013 was a positive 19.88%

Our goals for 2014 should be: our continuing financial support for operations of our church and possibly help fund a new minister!

Committee members, Steven Ristilla, Jim Batman, Robert Jones(recording secretary) and Walter Weston(financial secretary)

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Weston

Church policy manual: Over the years, many policies and guidelines have been developed by Church Council and its committees. Those policies and guidelines, however, were never gathered together in one spot. That became apparent when the last 20 years of Church Council minutes were examined. Under Pastor Kistler's direction, we began assembling, reviewing and revising the policies that guide this congregation. They are now together in one binder in the Parish Office.

OUTREACH 2013

January: approved \$100 to Girl Scouts for their summer trip to Atlanta; mailed parenting flyer to Cradle Roll families; approved \$100 donation to Trinity Food Bank for Boyer's cards;

February: approved turning over \$2,000 to the Current fund to meet expenses;

April: prepared draft of kitchen safety guidelines; Culinary approved transfer of \$10,000 from its fund to Current

June: Contributed to the 4th of July community food basket project; donated \$1,000 to St. John's Lutheran Church in Moore, Okla., for tornado relief work

July: approved purchase of Saturday Service banner; approved ad in newspaper for Saturday Services

August: Approved purchase of additional Bibles to be given away

September: Approved \$100 donation to Tamaqua Fire Police; reviewed 4-week Advent program

October: Approved \$100 donation to the Tamaqua Rescue Squad

November: Contributed \$300 to Schuylkill Women in Crisis; \$100 donation to the Primitive Methodist Church to help repair the church following vandalism; \$50 to Bethany ECC in honor of its Praise Band

December: Approved including Zion in the weekly church directory in the Times News

Christmas food baskets: In 2012, food baskets and Boyer's gift cards were distributed to four families. In 2013, food baskets went to six families.

Joyful Noise: Through our monthly coin collections, we gave donations to 12 different organizations totaling \$870.85 in 2013. Thank you letters from many of those organizations are found on the Gathering Room bulletin board. 2014 will give us 12 more opportunities to provide outreach and demonstrate the love of Christ to others.

2013 Joyful Noise donations were given to: Elder Wish of Sugar Loaf \$52.30 (Jan.); Tamaqua Community Arts Center \$62.21 (Feb.); Grace Youth and Family Foundation \$78.21 (March); Kive Loans \$79.49 (April); Rocky Mountain Indian Reservation \$65.70 (May); 4th of July Community Food baskets \$75.71 (June); Zion Relay for Life team \$51.60 (July); ELCA Good Gifts – farming tools and training \$77.65 (Aug); Wounded Warriors \$108.13 (Sept.); International Fellowship of Christians and Jews \$87 (Oct.); Trinity food pantry \$72.05 (Nov.); Gift cards for Zion Christmas food baskets \$60.80 (Dec.).

Goods N Stuff: April and October sales totaled \$2,789.63. Half of Goods N Stuff profits go into the Outreach fund; half goes for current expenses. Watch for 2014 dates in the bulletin. Set-up and sales help is always appreciated. Contact Judy Brennan at 570-668-1197.

SOS: Through the Congregational Services Share Our Surplus (SOS) program, we picked up laundry products and cases of water. The water is given to the fire companies in town and the laundry products are distributed to needy families and the Trinity food bank.

Putz: Borrowing a Moravian tradition, Zion presented its first Christmas Putz in the Social Room. Plans for 2014 include an expanded Putz program.

Blanket ministry: During the summer months, a team of dedicated workers meet weekly to assemble blanket quilts. This year, 25 blankets went to the Schuylkill Genesis Center in Pottsville and 50 blankets went to Birthright in Frackville. The blanket team welcomes new members. Watch for announcements about weekly meetings.

Culinary: It was a very successful year for the Culinary crew. We had a total of 26 events. Two of the events involved serving the community. One was serving dinner to the Air Force National Guard Band on July 3. The dinner was well appreciated by the band which presented a concert that evening at the Tamaqua Community Arts Center. The second was hosting the Tamaqua Community Advent Breakfast on Dec. 7 which is a yearly event.

Culinary events had a total profit of \$7,936.81. Combined with the two Goods N Stuff rummage sales, a total profit of \$10,726.44 was available to the church.

We would like to thank everyone who donated bake goods for any of the events, especially the rummage sales—we can always use more.

Anyone with some free time to help us with any of the events is surely welcome to join us.

Any questions? Please ask someone on the Culinary for Goods N Stuff crews.

You can also help by purchasing tickets or products which are sold at all events. This all helps Zion Church.

Thanks you all for a successful 2013. We hope you see everyone at one of the events during 2014.

Coffee and Conversation: Refreshments are served and fellowship encouraged after the service the first and third Sundays of the month. Beginning in 2014, the first Sunday of the month will be dedicated to all members of the congregation having a birthday that month. Baked goods are welcome. Help setting up and tearing down is also appreciated. Contact Paul Fegley at 570-573-6463.

Flower ministry: When altar flower sponsors do not take the flowers after a Sunday service, the flowers are given to home bound and hospitalized members of Zion. 2014 will give us the opportunity to visit and give joy with the flowers when they are available. Contact Judy Brennan at 570-668-1197.

Shawl ministry:

Trinity food bank: Each month, members are encouraged to bring specific food items which are then donated to the Trinity UCC food bank which distributes food to Tamaqua area families.

CULINARY AND GOODS & STUFF 2013

It was a very good successful year for the Culinary and Goods & Stuff events. We had a total of 26 events. Two of the events were special serving the community. One service dinner for the Air Force National Guard Band on July 3rd and was well appreciated by all band members. The other was serving the Advent Breakfast on December 7th which is a yearly event.

Some other things different this year was the Tricky Baskets for a profit of \$418.00 and assortment of Christmas Craft items with a profit of \$450.50. All of these items were donations from area business men and women as well as church members.

Two Goods & Stuff Sales for a profit of \$2,789.63. The culinary events had a total profit of \$7,936.81 which makes a total profit of \$10,726.44 available for Zion's Church.

We would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods for any of the events especially the Goods & stuff sales we can always use more. Anyone who has some free time to help with any of the events is surely welcome to join us. Any questions please ask someone on Culinary or Goods & Stuff crew. You can also help by purchasing tickets or product which is being sold at all events. This all helps Zion's church.

Thank you all for a successful 2013. We hope to see everyone at one of the events during 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Derr

2013 Culinary Crew

We would like to provide a thank you to all who helped at the following activities...

- ✓ *January 7 – Made our home made sauerkraut*
- ✓ *January 20 – Pastor Kistler’s Farewell*
- ✓ *February 2 – Super Bowl Wings and Soup Sale*
- ✓ *February 10 - Congregational Breakfast*
- ✓ *February 12 – Fastnacht- Pork and Sauerkraut Supper*
- ✓ *February 27 - Lenten Fish Dinner*
- ✓ *March 1 and 2 – Belle of the Ball, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *March 13 –Lenten Fish Dinner*
- ✓ *March 23 - Easter Egg Hunt, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *April 25 and 27 - Spring Goods & Stuff*
- ✓ *May 9 – Ascension service, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *May 19 - Confirmation, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *May 26 – Senior Recognition – Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *July 3 – Dinner for the Air Force National Guard*
- ✓ *July 8-12 - Vacation Bible School, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *August 14 - Peach Social*
- ✓ *August 25 – Congregational Picnic*
- ✓ *September 21 – Fall Fest*
- ✓ *October 5-6 – Fall Goods & Stuff*
- ✓ *November 9 – Praise Band Service, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *November 20 – Thanksgiving Pie & Filling Sale*
- ✓ *November 24 - First Holy Communion, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *December 1, 8, 22 – Church Advent Program, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *December - Christmas Craft Bazaar*
- ✓ *December 7 - Advent Community Breakfast*
- ✓ *December 21 – Open House to enjoy our Putz Display*

We need you to help to make Zion grow and do more for 2014!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Choirs, Cantors, Lectors, Soloists, and Communion Assistants

Zion continues to be blessed with people who give of their time and talents to make our liturgy meaningful. I am always amazed by the faithfulness of these leaders and the heartfelt sense of responsibility they bring to the jobs they do.

The music leadership is provided most often by the Senior Choir and the Rejoice and Sing Choir. They lead the liturgy music and provide a special anthem to emphasize the Word for the day. We miss some of our longtime, faithful singers who are unable now to be with us because of health concerns. We welcome Hailey, Art, and Sue who now sing with us each week.

It was an especially good year for the lectors and cantors. Several young people have stepped up to help in these positions. While I am always grateful to those who serve year after year, it is a positive sign to have these young adults also helping us.

The communion assistants have played a very important role this year, as we had many different Pastors with many different styles leading our worship. I know that the Pastors were thankful to have someone who could guide them as they shared the body and blood of our precious Lord.

My thanks, also, to the soloists who help in the summer and through the year when they are needed. How fortunate we are at Zion to be able to use the talents we have within our congregation.

This year I pray that other members of our church family will consider taking a role in leading our liturgy. If you like to sing or can read the lessons or would be interested in serving as a communion assistant, please contact the church office or me for a schedule. Your help will insure that we continue to give our best to praise and glorify our God.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Mehalko



Parochial Report - 2013

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
1/13/13	Brielle Ivy Rose Houser	Erin Blaukowitz & Michael Houser
1/13/13	Rowyn Starr Stefanick	Brook Moyer & Jonathan Stefanick
1/13/13	Tanner John Tirpak	Gregg & Jessica Tirpak
3/17/13	Erin Mae Kupetz	Jennifer (Moser) & Bernard Kupetz
3/17/13	Joseph Ambrose Biasi	Mary K (Valentine) & Joseph Biasi
6/16/13	Skylar Trey Ansbach	Cristie Ansbach & Jeffrey Erie
6/16/13	Raven Nadine Elizabeth Wade	Rebecca Murphy & Tyler Wade
9/15/13	Darvin Jacob Faust	Darvin & Devon (Graham) Faust
10/7/13	Lucas Clinton Henritzky	Ernest & Susan (Haldeman) Henritzky

Marriages

Date	Names
4/4/13	Nicole Fritzingler & Matthew Thomas
9/14/13	Tiffany Harvilla & Matthew Warden

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
3/10/13	Member	Anna Mae Malay	85	3/14/13
3/14/13	Member	Mary E. Rusden	94	3/19/13
8/10/13	Member	Mildred A. Weaver	77	8/15/13
9/25/13	Member	Eleanor Mae Oschman	87	9/28/13
10/10/13	Member	Lucas Clinton Henritzky	3 days	10/17/13
10/12/13	Member	Ruth Naomi Breiner	69	10/16/13
11/11/13	Member	Rudolph Butterworth Sr.	67	11/15/13
11/16/13	Member	Alberta Hummel	93	11/23/13

Confirmations

Date	Name
5/19/13	Shawnee Geiger
5/19/13	Shania Jennings

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/24/13	Kasey Ansbach
	McKenzie Ansbach
	Alexandra Frederick
	Jacob Rudy
	Katelyn Rudy
	Nicholas Wall

Transfer In

Date	Name	From
12/1/13	Francis Rudy	St. Peters Union Church, Mantzville
	Kristine Rudy	
	Jacob Rudy	
	Katelyn Rudy	
	Kimberly Rudy	

Withdrawn (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name	
1/7/13	Justin Nahf	Requested by individual – Baptized Not Confirmed
1/7/13	Karissa Nahf	Requested by individual – Baptized Not Confirmed
1/7/13	Shonna Nahf	Requested by individual – Baptized Not Confirmed
2/13	Frederick Herb, III	Requested by individual
2/13	Karen Herb	Requested by individual
2/13	Steven Herb	Requested by individual – Baptized Not Confirmed

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-YOUTH

2013 was a busy year for the youth at Zion. Confirmation classes met each Sunday morning. These classes are for 7th and 8th graders. On Pentecost 2 eighth graders were confirmed. The new 7th graders have a class of 11 so combined our class has 18. This is such an important part of their faith journey, as they study Luther's Small Catechism and the teachings in the New Testament.

Our Lenten Program was open to all children and adults in our congregation. We followed Holy week through movies and RESURRECTION EGGS. On Easter Sunday in church the children did a short program on the RESURRECTION EGGS.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a success with over 50 children eager to find the hidden eggs and enjoy snacks prepared by the Culinary Crew.

Vacation Bible School was held in July with 42 children registered and 28 dedicated staff members. The theme was GOD'S BACKYARD BIBLE CAMP- UNDER THE STARS. It was a week filled with stories, songs, and crafts telling us of God love in our lives. Like every camp out the snacks were great and enjoyed by all.

In November 6 children and their parents attended First Holy Communion classes. On Christ the King Sunday the 6 children received their First Holy Communion. The Culinary Crew had a nice social after the service.

Advent was a very busy and exciting time. The Confirmands decorated and prepared a program called THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM. Each Sunday 46-50 members-children and adults- followed Mary and Joseph's very difficult 70 mile, 20 day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. At the end of each part of the journey, the Culinary Crew served breakfast.

The Ministry of Music brought the Advent season to an end. The confirmands presented a short program in church on CHRISMONS and what they mean.

We are blessed to have a group of youth so willing to give their time and talents. They are the future of our church.

I would like to give special thanks to everyone who helped, and continue to do SO much to make these programs possible. YOURS IN FAITH, Deb Davies

Cleaning Angels 2013

Once again Zion's has been blessed with a truly dedicated group of volunteers. Our angels take great pride and devotion serving while cleaning the Lord's home. I could not ask for a better group of people. Remember the team of cleaning Angels is always looking for a few more souls to gain their wings. Come join the band of Angels.

Yours in Christ,
Kim Eckert

Relay for Life -2013

The Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, was held at Panther Valley High School Stadium, Lansford, June 21-22, 2013.

Zion family sponsored several luminarias in memory of or in honor of loved ones battling the disease. The luminarias were brightly shining as the stadium lights dimmed and team members walked the track.

The Relay will be held again at the Panther Valley Stadium this June. It is uncertain if Zion will be a team participant after 20 plus years of being active.

I cannot begin to mention all the team members throughout the years but I do sincerely thank all who walked, donated time or money and all the countless hours involved. There are many fond memories which will be tucked away as Zion decides whether or not to continue down this road.

Respectfully submitted with a heartfelt thank you for past participation and many years of warm memories,
Mary Kay Davis

Christmas Food Baskets

Zion distributed 3 food baskets, 3 food boxes and helped 2 additional families with canned goods, a ham or turkey and a Boyer's gift card.

The generous outpouring from the congregation (as well as funds from Outreach) enabled Zion to reach out to the families requesting some assistance during the holidays.

Thank you to all who helped make this project a success as we touched the lives of some community and church family members.

Zion truly came through with "The Reason for the Season."

Thank you again and God Bless,
Mary Kay Davis

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
570-668-2180



December 23, 2013

Greetings to all of you at this “most wonderful time of the year”!

Whether working on the Putz, helping on the Culinary Crew to serve the 150 guests at the Advent breakfast, or decorating the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary and Gathering Room, we enjoy every moment because it creates special memories with friends and family here at Zion. Through all the excitement this season brings, we cherish the opportunities to worship our Lord and Savior.

Looking back over the past year we can be amazed at the way the Lord has used each of us in this congregation to serve Christ and help make a difference in our community. We do indeed have Good News to share for Tamaqua. We can be thankful to be a part of a church that faithfully supports its Mission Statement: ***Zion proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community. We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers.***

What is the Good News to share? These are just some of the things that have happened here this past year.

Through Outreach we have made monetary donations to our local fire department, the fire police, and the ambulance association, and the Hazleton-Lehighon Mission District. Outreach has also supported the Girl Scouts, Friends in Need Pantry, Tamaqua Community Arts Center, collected coats, hats and toys for children last Christmas as well as food basket for needy families. In times of crisis Outreach sent monetary donations to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Moore, Oklahoma, to help in tornado relief. Here at home, Outreach donated to the Primitive Methodist Church after it was vandalized and had pipes were stolen. Other donations went to help students at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Outreach also paid for the baby changing table in the Unisex bathroom by the Church office.

Through our Joyful Noise offerings we have supported Elder Wish, Grace Youth and Family Foundation, Rocky Mountain Indian Reservation, American Cancer Society Relay For Life, ELCA Good Gift, Wounded Warrior Mission Project, Siberian Church in Russia, 4th of July Food Baskets, Trinity Food Pantry, and food gift cards this Christmas.

In addition to communion to shut-ins and the Flower Ministry, Zion also has a Blanket Ministry which made blankets for people on the 5th Floor at St Luke’s and young mothers at Birthright. Prayer Shawls were also made and donated to needy individuals.

Our Vacation Bible School ministered to over 60 children and the Lenten and Advent Sunday school programs have provided Christian instruction to our children. Culinary also prepared and served dinner to members of the Pa. Air National Guard Band that performed a concert at the Community Arts Center this past July.

This summer we initiated a Saturday evening service in the downstairs social hall which we’ve decided to continue through the year. We anticipate installing a video projector and updating our sound system in that area so we can expand that service.

Astoundingly, the flock of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tamaqua has done all this without a Shepard to lead us. As we enter this season of giving, we should be faithful in sharing our time, talents and offerings as God continues to use our church family to make a difference in this world. Your gift today will help us attract a suitable pastoral candidate and so that we may continue to reach out to spread the Gospel to our community.

Yours in Christ,

Zion Church Council and the Finance Committee