

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



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

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2015

Annual Meeting, February 14, 2016

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA SUNDAY, FEB. 14, 2016

- I. Opening Devotion - Pastor Goodwin
- II. Establish a quorum - We need at least 30, so please be sure to sign the attendance paper.
- III. Introduction of Church Council and welcome of visitors – Phil Gerace
Council: Deb Davis, Mark Kay Davis, Ron Deitrich, Rochelle Evanousky, Paul Fegley, Jim McRoberts, Darlene Fetterman, Frank Rudy, Bob Maue, Ernie Henritzky, Gerry Zeigler
Staff: Melody Casler - Parish Administrator (Interim Financial Secretary)
Dave Gensure - Treasurer
Interim Pastor - Rev. Virginia Goodwin
Intern - Vicar Cindy White
- IV. Adoption of minutes of February 2015 and December 2015 meetings.
- V. Reception of Financial Reports
Treasurer - Dave Gensure
Financial Secretary - Ann Marie Hadesty
Audits - Bob Jones
Motion to accept all financial reports.
- VI. Reception of other reports
Chairs - introduce members of your committee
Additional comments or information to add
Questions entertained
Motion to accept all reports.
- VII. State of the Congregation
Attendance report--
Giving step report--
2015 Summary—Rochelle Evanousky
Goals for 2016—Phil Gerace
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
Proposal for Action—Frank Rudy
- X. Adjournment and closing devotions





PARISH STAFF 2016

The Rev. Virginia Goodwin, Interim Pastor
Cindy White, Vicar
Sandra Mehalko, Parish Musician
Melody Casler, Parish Administrator
David Gensure, Treasurer
Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary
Kimberly Eckert and Sandra Graham, Sextons

COUNCIL – 2016

	Term	Ending	Position/Committee
Phil Gerace	1 st	12/31/16	President/ Evangelism/Christian Ed
Frank Rudy	1 st	12/31/17	Vice President/ Christian Ed/Youth
Darlene Fetterman	2 nd	12/31/18	Secretary/Culinary
Rochelle Evanousky	2 nd	12/31/16	Finance
Paul Fegley	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Culinary
Deb Davies	2 nd	12/31/16	Christian Ed/Youth/Intern Committee
Mary Kay Davis	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Cradle Roll
Ron Dietrich	2 nd	12/31/16	Property
Ernie Henritzky	2 nd	12/31/17	Christian Ed/Saturday Worship
Jim McRoberts	2 nd	12/31/18	Intern Committee
Gerry Zeigler	1 st	12/31/16	Outreach/Culinary
Bob Maue	1 st	12/31/18	Property

PARISH LEADERS

Altar Guild	Sandy Graham - 570-449-1092
Christian Education Convener:	Jim McRoberts - jimmcrob@yahoo.com
Secretary:	George Taylor- gtay200@verizon.net
Finance team	Bob Jones - rjones4621@aol.com
Endowment team	Walter Weston - gutww@verizon.net
Mutual Ministry	To be reformed in June/July 2016
Intern committee	Jim McRoberts - jimmcrob@yahoo.com
Outreach Secretary:	George Taylor - gtay200@verizon.net
Culinary Crew	Ells Davis – edavis@ptd.net
Goods n Stuff	Judy Brennan - jdymatteo@yahoo.com
PERT	George Taylor – gtay200@verizon.net
Property Team Convener:	Mark Valentine- maval1@ptd.net
Secretary:	George Taylor - gtay200@verizon.net
Proposal For Action	Frank Rudy – rudy1@ptd.net
Stewardship	Phil Gerace– plgerace@verizon.net or Frank Rudy – rudy1@ptd.net
Catechetical Coordinator - Deb Davies	
Acolyte Director - Art Connely	
Head Usher - Earl Klein	
Sunday Service Leaders - George Taylor, Ells Davis, Mark Valentine, Gerry Zeigler	
Parish Nurse – Melissa D’Alanzo	
Worship and Music – Sandy Mehalko	



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tamaqua, PA 18252
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Rochelle Evanousky. A quorum was established with 51 recorded members. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Goodwin.

Council members and church staff were noted: Council: President- Rochelle Evanousky, Vice President – Paul Fegley, Secretary – Darlene Fetterman, Jim Batman, Deb Davies, Mary Kay Davis, Ron Deitrich, Phil Gerace, John Haldeman, Ernie Henritz, Jim McRoberts, Frank Rudy, and Gerry Zeigler.

Staff: Melody Casler – Parish Administrator, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary, Interim Pastor – Rev. Virginia Goodwin, Intern – Vicar Cindy White.

Secretary's Report: The February 2014 meeting minutes were accepted on the motion of Mark Valentine, seconded by Judy Brennan. The December 2014 meeting minutes were accepted on the motion of Dave Gensure, seconded by Melody Casler.

Financial Reports: Reports were reviewed and then accepted on the motion of Sandy Mehalko, seconded by Ralph Derr.

Committee Reports: Committee members were introduced, and reports were reviewed. All reports were accepted on the motion of Ida Piccin, seconded by George Taylor.

State of the Congregation: Attendance, giving reports and goals were reviewed. We were informed by Pastor Goodwin that Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Kurt Garbe will continue to be our Synod Liason.

Old Business: Vicar White thanked everyone who helped with the parsonage renovations and with her family's move.

New Business – The meeting was then moved downstairs to the newly renovated Fellowship Hall, which was dedicated by Vicar White. Ida Piccin spearheaded this project.

End of Year Report – George Taylor presented a video that captured Zion's year in review.

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Laura Fulmer, seconded by Isabel Houser, and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Fetterman, Council Secretary

**Congregational Meeting
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 13, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Rochelle Evanousky and opened with prayer. It was determined that a quorum was present.

The agenda of the 2016 Budget and Election of Congregational Council members was approved on the motion of Judy Brennan, seconded by Isabel Houser. A motion from the Congregational Council recommended the adoption of the 2016 Expense and Revenue Budget as presented.

Bob Jones explained the use of Culinary Funds. Funds were given to the church, to 8 people for the Mission Trip, and used for the purchase of tables, the completion of the downstairs bathroom and the expense of the grove for the church picnic, for a total of \$14,259.00. The budget was approved.

The slate of candidates for the Congregational Council was presented, including Jim McRoberts and Darlene Fetterman, each for a 2 year term. Bob Maue was added to the ballot for a 3 year term on the motion of Deb Davies, seconded by Darlene Fetterman. The ballot was closed on the motion of Isabel Houser, seconded by Ron Dietrich. The votes were tallied and all three candidates were elected.

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Mark Valentine, seconded by Walter Weston.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Fetterman, Council Secretary

Pastor's Annual Report January 2015 – December 2015

For I know the plans I have for you – plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29: 11

I realize I used the same scripture for the 2014 report. However, it is even more relevant for this year's report. Zion has had some bumps in the road over the last several years. You have survived and yes, you have thrived. Some of you have recognized and agreed to follow the new directions God has placed in your midst. Some of you have embraced them, while some have just gone along and some have been reticent to try new and different opportunities that have presented themselves. And that is where we find ourselves today.

God does have plans for Zion Lutheran Church. God has plans for you, too. When God's plans are obstructed, there is confusion and stagnation. When we are living God's plan we see growth. At Zion we are seeing growth in many areas. The Saturday Evening Services (5:30PM) are growing. There are some folks who have expressed an interest to join the congregation. They have become active participants in other areas of what Zion folks do for the mission field beyond the building.

The Sunday School has grown. We have added a three year old class and want to keep that class going each year as our Cradle Roll members turn three and discover our loving and gentle teachers, Gwen Evans and Mary Ruth Taylor, who concentrate on them in the class. This class meets right after church on Sunday Mornings (10:15 AM). They will graduate to a pre-school class for 4-5 year olds in Sept. while new three year olds begin their Christian Education in the church with our gifted teachers.

The grade school class has remained stable with the combined support of Kelsey Zamudio and Laura Fulmer. The Confirmation class continues with Deb Davies and a High School class is meeting with Vicar Cindy. God has great plans for each one of our children. We have to plant the seeds and water. God will help them grow.

What do parents do while their children's classes are meeting? They gather in the area outside the sanctuary for coffee and conversation. Some good friendships have blossomed as well as ideas for the children to do things for the good of the community in the mission field we have outside our doors. From the group of parents has come an opportunity each third Sunday of the month to have your blood pressure checked by a registered nurse, Melissa D'Alonzo.

Zion sent seven youth and an adult to Kentucky as part of a missions team that was supported by many of the churches in Tamaqua. Our youth came back changed and eager to do more for others. We need to see that it can happen. As soon as they returned, Zion was the Lutheran presence for Vacation Bible School in Tamaqua this summer with plans to grow it further. It will take help and support from the people of the congregation to make both events happen in 2016.

The Adult Bible Study has proven successful as it has shifted to a private home. Each Monday evening in the fall approximately fifteen people gathered to learn more about the Bible. Deb Davies has agreed to continue teaching it throughout 2016.

The outreach committee was stretched beyond the building this year by providing their physical help in distributing laundry detergent, fabric softener and diapers to food banks and agencies covering four counties through Lutheran Congregational Services. They gathered once in June to sort and prepare and came back in Sept to distribute to those who came to pick up in Easton. The comradery between those who loaded items into the cars and vans with those who came to pick up is something that begs everyone to want to return and help again.

Learning more about God and what God has done and will do, is critical to the growth at Zion. Being inspired to go to the mission field right outside our doors is critical to the growth of the Kingdom of God. Over the next year, Zion has to look at how we can put learning and mission together. This is God's plan for the entire world.

Paster Ginny

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 2015

Reflecting on the past year here at Zion always leads me back to the word service. I view the work completed by council was most reflected in the service we provided for our members and trying to best serve our surrounding community. Our Mission: *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.*

While we certainly have much work to do, an honest effort was put forth to work toward this lofty goal. Those **servicing** on council did so with a love for Zion and more importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ. Discussions and decisions made by council always had this in mind.

The New Year brought a welcome addition with Vicar Cindy White and her family moving into the parsonage. Volunteers gladly offered their **service** to help with the preparation of the parsonage as well as moving day. An Intern Committee was established and again we have people **servicing** to help the Vicar organize and adapt to the various aspects of church as well as to evaluate her progress so she may better **serve** our congregation and our community.

We saw the completion of our Social Hall and handicapped downstairs bathroom through generous donations and many helping hands. This hall allows us, as a church, to **serve** the needs of our congregation and community through our Saturday night worship services, our many Culinary events, and rentals for special events such as wedding receptions and baptismal parties.

Council has formed several new committees and reinstated some from the past. We saw the Stewardship Committee reform how we look at stewardship with the development of the Joshua Project. This allowed some members to decide how they could use \$100 to **serve** the Lord and spread God's love.

The Parking Committee looked into many options of how it could **serve** the congregation with alternatives to our very limited parking. The committee worked with a local realtor as well as the borough to try to work out some solutions. A subcommittee of this was established to see how we can make an informed, intelligent decision about our current status of remaining at Zion or leaving the building and moving on to a new location that would best **serve** our needs. A great deal of time and hard work has been put forth by many for us to make a future decision.

We have seen the reestablishment of a Parish Nurse, Melissa D'Alonzo. She has kindly agreed to **serve** our congregation by doing blood pressure screening on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

I could never begin to list all of the people who have stepped forward to **serve** our church and community in whatever way they can. We have people who spend endless hours working here with the Cleaning Angels, Culinary, Property Committee, Finance Committee, our Saturday night service team, Worship and Music, Christian Education, Outreach, Stewardship, Intern Committee, PERT, Parking Committee, Altar Guild, and Exterior Task Force.

I thank you all. We welcome any members to join us in whatever ways you can. So please, continue to **serve** and help spread the Good Word!

Respectfully,
Rochelle Evanousky
Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL GOALS

Goals for 2015

- Updating membership files with contact information
- Readdressing membership strategies
- Welcoming new members
- Involving young members in congregation and the community
- Addressing the issue of inactive members
- Engaging families of recently baptized children
- Council and Property actively looking at parking issues and develop a plan to increase parking
- Seek a Helper Coordinator

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2015

JANUARY

- ✓ Donations to the Tamaqua Rescue Squad and the Tamaqua Ambulance were approved .
- ✓ The Confirmation Class invited friends to watch a film, *Facing Giants*, at our church.
- ✓ Approval was given for Souper Bowl Saturday/Sunday on January 30 and 31.

FEBRUARY

- ✓ Prayer Partners were formed within council membership.
- ✓ A new Stewardship Committee was formed. Phil Gerace and Frank Rudy lead the committee and sought members of the congregation to join them.
- ✓ Rick Bachman was appointed to be Cemetery Secretary.
- ✓ SOS volunteers helped to stage goods for distribution in Easton.

MARCH

- ✓ Jim and Jan McRoberts held a discussion group on Martin Luther that continued through Lent.
- ✓ Council approved Zion's participation in the Tamaqua Community Hunger Walk.
- ✓ Jim McRoberts and George Taylor lead a Parking Committee and asked for volunteers from the congregation.
- ✓ The work being done on the former Sunday School Superintendent's Office will turn the room into a Finance/Counting Office.

APRIL

- ✓ The Ad Hoc Parking Committee studied many issues involved in the building of a parking lot.
- ✓ Paperwork was completed for Zion to receive a bequest from the Estate of John Brown.

MAY

- ✓ Council has passed a Photo Policy, which will be placed in the handout weekly.
- ✓ Council approved, with commendation, the nine candidates who are being confirmed on May 24, 2015.
- ✓ A new Mail Back booklet style envelope was approved for use by Zion.
- ✓ Background checks for all those working and or interacting with our youth was approved.

JUNE

- ✓ John Haldeman and Mary Kay Davis volunteered to attend a Mandatory Reporting and Child Abuse Workshop sponsored by Schuylkill United Way.
- ✓ Rochelle Evanousky, Darlene Fetterman, Vicar Cindy White, and Pastor Virginia Goodwin reported on their experiences at the Synod Assembly, "Unleashed".
- ✓ Our Vicar and several youths from our congregation went on a Mission Trip to Kentucky.

JULY

- ✓ It was decided that a Mission Fund be established for future mission trips with the remainder of this year's donations designated for the 2015 Mission Trip.
- ✓ We acknowledged a monetary donation made by Rick and Sandy Clemson toward the purchase of a new push mower, after ours were stolen from our shed.
- ✓ We also acknowledged the donation of a new water heater from Dan and Carol Reigel.
- ✓ Vacation Bible School was held July 20-24 and was led by our Vicar.
- ✓ Culinary paid for the plumbing bill for the downstairs handicapped bathroom.

AUGUST

- ✓ -Council approved seed money for the Stewardship Committee's Joshua Tree Project.
- ✓ -We are very grateful to Stoudt's Fruit for donating four bushels of peaches for our Peach Social.

SEPTEMBER

- ✓ Our church picnic was held on September 13th.
- ✓ Our Sunday School will include a 3 year old class as well as a class for high school students.
- ✓ An alternate handicapped entrance for the first floor is being explored.

OCTOBER

- ✓ We have a new parish nurse, Melissa D'Alonzo.
- ✓ A date for the annual Fiscal Meeting was set for Dec. 13th.

NOVEMBER

- ✓ Melody Casler was approved as interim financial secretary while Ann Marie Hadesty is on sabbatical.
- ✓ Rarick's Coal, Oil and Propane was approved as our oil provider for this year.

DECEMBER

- ✓ Council will support Joshua Projects going forward into the spring.
- ✓ Zion's committee structure will be reviewed at the January meeting.
- ✓ Council reviewed the completed 2014 Audit.

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Evanousky, 2015 Council President

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Internship Committee is composed of Intern Cindy White, Laura Fulmer, Beth Lattanzi, Kelsey Zamudio, Walter Weston, Judy Brenan, and Jim McRoberts. Pastor Virginia Goodwin provided an orientation and charge to the committee. The committee held its thirteenth meeting in January, 2016.

The committee has served as a sounding board, advisor and evaluator of the intern. Cindy's mid-term evaluation was very positive. A final evaluation will be undertaken in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McRoberts, Chair

Cradle Roll Report 2015

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 9 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

131	2007
117	2008
112	2009
108	2010
106	2011
106	2012
92	2013
112	2014
106	2015

SUNDAY SCHOOL

37	2008
20	2009
20	2010
15	2011
12	2012
50	2013
45	2014
23	2015

	2014	2015
Baptized Membership	953	691
Confirmed Members	607	351
Confirmed Members Who:		
Communed	211	171
Did Not Commune (of record)	396	180
Contributed	280	271
Did Not Contribute (of record)	327	80
Communed AND Contributed	154	135
Neither Communed NOR Contributed	194	49
Communed Did Not Contribute (of record)	24	64
Contributed Did Not Commune (of record)	126	66
 Non-Confirmed Communing Membership	 11	 13
 Members received by Baptism (Child)	 4	 3
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	6	9
New First Communicants	7	4
 Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer		
(Baptized)	0	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	0
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by		
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	0	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	0
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	0	0
 Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	 0	 4
(Confirmed)	0	4
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	6	1
(Confirmed)	5	1
Member Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	250
 Members who were taken by Death	 8	 10
Non-Member Deaths	2	1
 Marriages	 1	 0



Property Report for 2015

Mark Valentine, chair; Ellsworth Davis, Ron Dietrich, Dave Hadesty, Rick Bachman and George Taylor, committee members

PARSONAGE

Vicar Cindy White and family moved into the parsonage in January. Prior to that, the floors on the first floor and main stairway steps were refinished. A new floor was laid in the kitchen. Plaster repair was completed on damaged rooms. The Vicar's family will do the painting as time permits.

Two windows were replaced in the front left-hand bedroom.

Window casings were wrapped in aluminum.

Front and back porches and all remaining wood trim was painted by Joe Hnat.

An air conditioner was purchased and installed in the dining room.

CHURCH

A new handicapped accessible bathroom was completed at the bottom of the Upper Mauch Chunk Street entrance. The cost of the bathroom plumbing was paid for by the Culinary Crew. Work done by Dave and Jonathan Hadesty, Mark Valentine, Ellsworth Davis and Dan Riegel Plumbing.

Major repairs were done to the lower lift. Addition repairs to the larger tower lift have been identified. Work done by Access Ability of Bethlehem.

After two years of planning, signage was ordered and installed in various locations throughout the church building.

Gutter guards were installed on the long gutter at the rear of the church above the choir room. Water damage to the former Sunday school supt.'s office was caused by clogged gutters above the room. The window above the damaged room has been enclosed. Window casings were wrapped in aluminum. Work done by Kupres Brothers.

Repairs work to the damaged room have begun and will be completed early this year.

Bids were sought and plans discussed to repair and repaint the walls of the tower entrance at Mauch Chunk and Greenwood streets.

The second handicapped seating area has been installed in the sanctuary.

All rails and gates were painted by Joe Hnat.

Dan Riegel and his wife, Carol, donated an electric water heater to the church. It was been connected to heat water for the kitchen and women's bathroom so that the main furnace need not run in the summer months.

New blinds were installed in the Social Hall where Saturday evening services are held. New chairs were purchased through an annuity fund from Ida Piccin.

A new electric circuit was installed for the digital projector.

Ron Dietrich donated two additional portable heaters for use as needed.

Plans have been made to paint the Pastor's Office early this year.

One of the larger Sunday school rooms on the third floor has been developed into a youth room by young members of the church. Additional electrical outlets have been requested.

A new wireless microphone was purchased for use in the sanctuary. The existing wireless mic was moved to the Social Hall for Saturday evening services. A desktop mic was purchased for use on the lower altar.

A new small flat-screen TV was purchased for use in the library.

An engineer has been hired to draw up plans for a handicapped entrance at the top corner of the building on Mauch Chink Street.

CEMETERY

The professional grade mower purchased three years ago has been paid off.

A new set of burial guidelines have been developed and will be mailed to all are funeral directors early this year.

A new push mower purchased for trimming was stolen within days of its purchase. Cemetery neighbor Rick Clemson donated \$200 to purchase another mower.

Rick Bachman assumed the role of cemetery secretary replacing Laura Fulmer who had served for several years.



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 2015

Robert Jones, Chairperson; Steven Ristila, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary; George Taylor, Council President; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Walter Weston, and Council Member Jim Batman serve on Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Finance Committee. In November Melody Casler joined the Committee replacing Ann Marie while she is on leave.

In January the Church received a letter from Attorneys Bowe and Lisella in which John Brown bequeathed Zion Lutheran Church \$10,000. Since there was no restrictions put on this gift the Church policy is that one half goes to Current Fund and one half to Endowment.

In February Property presented plans for a handicap bathroom which will be constructed in the stairwell outside the Gym. It will be built in such a way as to keep access to the sexton's closet and the door to the old nursery. Reigel Plumbing gave an estimate of \$6,500 but members of Property will do the carpentry work and that could cut the cost perhaps in half. The money for this will come out of Improvement Fund. A motion was made and passed to approve the project.

Last winter was a rough one for the Church. With so many church services being cancelled due to the weather income had taken a severe drop and in March it was revealed that 60% of the Emergency Fund had been used up to pay bills.

The Committee worked on several ideas to make up for the lost Sundays and how to increase the Fuel Fund. It was proposed the the Fifth Sunday of the month be designated as "Catch Up Sunday". A special collection would be taken on these Sundays to try to replenish the Current Fund. Another suggestion was "Delay vs Cancellation". Several options are possible: Meet another day rather than have a delay, meet late Sunday afternoon, have a midweek service during the day. Finance also recommended that a "Fuel Sunday" be established on the second Sunday of the month for a special offering annually. These options were set to Council for their consideration.

May was a good month with the Church receiving several monetary gifts including \$4,900 from an annuity, \$5,240.47 was transferred from Culinary, \$9,000 from Endowment toward the insurance and \$5,000 bequest from the John Brown Estate. Year to date income exceeded expenses by \$3,821.39.

In September the Finance Committee tackled the Annual Budget. There were two important issues to highlight in this budget. One is the Pastors' salaries. Pastor Goodwin will be leaving at the end of June. Her package for the first half of the year will be \$10,000, which is \$8,000 salary and \$2,000 Travel Allowance. The Vicar will continue to be paid the Intern Stipend of \$1,100/month from January 2016 to end of June 2016. This is all predicated upon her successfully completing her Internship in June. The budget for her salary from July 2016 to end of December 2016 is based on the assumption that she will be asked and accept her two year Residency here at Zion. The committee followed the minimum Synod guidelines for a pastor with 0-1 year experience with parsonage provided to come up with the total salary package in the 2016 budget.

The other important issue considered in this budget was raises for all Lay Staff with the exception of the Maintenance Sexton/snow removal. This individual received a raise last year so will not be considered for a raise in this budget. A motion was made and approved to include in the budget a provision for Council to give a 3% raise to all lay staff with the exception of the Maintenance Sexton/snow removal.

The Treasurer presented two Revenue Budgets for 2016. One was based on what was projected, the other was a "wish list" based on the assumption of increased giving. The committee chose to use the Projected Budget because it is based on averages over the past three years. Again this was not a "balanced budget" since it is impossible to present a balanced budget when some funds such as Culinary and Endowment are not budgeted. Church Council rejected the Projected Budget in favor of a "Balanced Budget". The 2016 Budget was approved by the Congregation at the annual fiscal meeting in December.

CASH SUMMARY FOR 2015

Budget Contributions 2015. \$132,264.20
Budget Expenses 2015. \$149,389.53
Budget Ahead/Behind. (\$17,125.33)

Income 2105. \$166,269.71
Expenses 2015. \$182,477.80
Ahead/Behind. (\$16,208.09)

Annuity Fund. \$17,518.41

Money Market \$61,669.11 Starting Balance 1-1-15 \$73,838.95

Checking. \$11,943.04 Starting Balance 1-1-15 \$15,981.29

We once again ended the year running a deficit with Actual Expenses exceeding Actual Income by \$16,208.09

The Church received substantial gifts this year in the form of an annuity worth \$4900; \$6012.71 from Culinary; \$14632 from Endowment which paid the annual insurance premium, and \$5,000 bequest from the John Brown Estate. Add these gifts up and you have \$30,544.71. The Church is grateful for these gifts and thanks those who gave them.

Every year is a busy one filled with many challenges. This year was no different. Your Finance Committee here at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to do our best to ensure God's gifts are used wisely to support the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted by Robert Jones, Finance Chairperson

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2016 BUDGET

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$5,600.00	\$5,604.00	\$6,000.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Donations	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
Total Commitment	\$6,080.00	\$5,984.00	\$6,480.00
Pastor Expenses			
Pastor Salary	\$34,800.00	\$30,705.20	\$31,786.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.20	\$3,000.00
Pastor Health/Dental			\$4,386.00
Pastor Other Expenses (Intern)	\$1,850.00	\$1,123.00	\$405.00
Pastor Pension			\$2,062.00
Pastor Social Security Allowance			\$1,613.00
Pastor Continuing Education	\$500.00		\$275.00
Pastor Housing Equity			\$515.00
Vacation Supply	\$600.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
Total Pastor Expenses	\$42,650.00	\$36,878.40	\$44,292.00
Lay Staff Exp			
Parish Administrator	\$15,600.00	\$14,364.00	\$16,068.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$8,453.00	\$8,453.12	\$8,707.00
Maintenance Sexton/Snow Removal	\$1,200.00	\$1,107.80	\$1,200.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$5,429.00	\$5,220.26	\$5,592.00
Financial Secretary	\$2,400.00	\$2,431.83	\$2,472.00
Treasurer	\$3,000.00	\$2,999.88	\$3,090.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00		\$200.00
Total Lay Staff Exp	\$36,282.00	\$34,576.89	\$37,329.00

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016
Administration			
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,358.60	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment	\$600.00	\$888.63	\$2,400.00
Mailings	\$800.00	\$944.00	\$800.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$1,800.00	\$1,337.50	\$1,800.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,400.00	\$1,465.00	\$1,400.00
Advertising & Media	\$500.00	\$556.85	\$600.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$800.00	\$688.00	\$800.00
Total Adm. Exp.	\$7,400.00	\$7,238.58	\$8,800.00

Property			
Fuel Oil	\$28,000.00	\$17,906.85	\$26,000.00
Electricity	\$5,200.00	\$5,566.34	\$7,200.00
Phone/Internet	\$1,300.00	\$1,355.52	\$1,300.00
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$3,500.00	\$7,367.51	\$3,500.00
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	\$1,086.97	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$350.00	\$167.74	\$350.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$1,700.00	\$1,683.00	\$1,700.00
Cemetery/Mower Expenses	\$2,200.00	\$1,619.70	\$2,200.00
Total Property	\$42,750.00	\$36,753.63	\$42,750.00

FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED

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

Insurance			
Employer Share Taxes	\$2,800.00	\$3,536.06	\$2,800.00
Insurance	\$16,000.00	\$14,579.00	\$16,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,100.00	\$604.00	\$1,100.00
Total Insurance	\$19,900.00	\$18,719.06	\$19,900.00

Worship and Music			
Music	\$150.00	\$237.85	\$150.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$1,500.00	\$1,737.27	\$1,500.00
Communion Supplies	\$500.00	\$711.30	\$500.00
Candles	\$500.00	\$388.61	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$400.00	\$314.75	\$400.00
Bulletins	\$100.00	\$110.76	\$100.00
Acolytes	\$100.00		\$100.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$500.00	\$217.38	\$500.00
Ministry Materials	\$500.00	\$610.01	\$500.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$720.00	\$740.00	\$720.00
Worship Materials			\$500.00
Music Vacation Supply			\$150.00
Total Worship & Music	\$4,970.00	\$5,067.93	\$5,620.00

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016
Christian Education			
Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies	\$500.00	\$296.84	\$500.00
Adult Education	\$500.00	\$96.47	\$500.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	\$275.90	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council	\$250.00		\$250.00
Vac. Church School	\$300.00	\$312.31	\$300.00
Total Christian Education	\$1,750.00	\$981.52	\$1,750.00
Stewardship & Evang			
Offering Envelopes	\$2,500.00	\$1,803.52	\$2,500.00
Stewardship	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$2,800.00	\$2,303.52	\$3,100.00
Social Ministry			
Parish Nurse	\$100.00		\$100.00
Total Social Ministry	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS			
Bank Charges	\$75.00	\$66.00	\$75.00
Special Events	\$300.00		\$300.00
Health Benefit Account			
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$820.00	\$500.00
Total Misc Budgeted Accounts	\$875.00	\$886.00	\$875.00
GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS	\$166,037.00	\$149,389.53	\$171,476.00
Non-Budgeted Misc Accts			
ELCA Benevolence		\$351.00	
World Hunger		\$1,357.30	
LWR		\$256.00	
Missionary/Joyful Noise		\$1,142.48	
Scholarships		\$0.00	
Annuity Expense			
Harvest Home		\$129.00	
Misc Pass Through Expense		\$2,232.40	
Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts	\$0.00	\$5,468.18	\$0.00
FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED			
Culinary Expenses		\$10,064.87	
Helping Hands Expense		\$300.00	
Improvement Expense		\$13,958.67	
Ministerial Expense		\$375.00	
Outreach Expense		\$2,340.10	
Senior Choir Expense			
Scholarship Fund Expense		\$100.00	
Library Fund Expense		\$69.99	
Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted	\$0.00	\$27,208.63	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$166,037.00	\$182,066.34	\$171,476.00

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PROJECTED REVENUE BUDGET 2016

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016
Weekly Offerings			
Envelopes	\$89,394.00	\$86,705.93	\$139,686.00
Plate	\$3,900.00	\$3,189.51	\$5,000.00
Sunday School	\$200.00		
Total Weekly Offerings	\$93,494.00	\$89,895.44	\$144,686.00
Special Gifts			
Reformation	\$225.00	\$146.00	\$230.00
Birthdays	\$475.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
All Saints	\$150.00	\$16.00	\$300.00
Thanksgiving	\$325.00	\$30.00	\$500.00
Ash Wednesday	\$450.00	\$170.00	\$300.00
Lenten Gifts	\$1,000.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,200.00
Maundy Thursday	\$250.00	\$332.00	\$400.00
Good Friday	\$125.00	\$217.00	\$300.00
Easter	\$2,200.00	\$2,132.00	\$2,500.00
Ascension	\$200.00	\$183.00	\$200.00
Pentecost	\$200.00	\$231.00	\$300.00
Advent	\$225.00	\$20.00	\$300.00
Christmas	\$3,500.00	\$105.00	\$4,000.00
New Year	\$250.00	\$170.00	\$200.00
Memorials/Honorarium	\$2,500.00	\$1,623.50	\$4,000.00
Energy	\$3,500.00	\$1,866.00	\$3,500.00
Total Specials Gifts	\$15,575.00	\$8,510.50	\$18,630.00
Designated Gifts			
Organ Fund	\$200.00	\$15.00	\$200.00
Cemetery Fund	\$300.00	\$280.60	\$300.00
VBS	\$200.00	\$124.04	\$200.00
Total Designated Gifts	\$700.00	\$419.64	\$700.00
Facilities Rental & Services			
Facilities Rental	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
Good's N Stuff	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
	\$9,000.00		
Total Facilities Rental & Services	\$12,200.00	\$150.00	\$3,200.00
Reimbursements and Other			
Initial Envelopes	\$300.00	\$316.00	\$300.00
Flowers	\$400.00	\$117.00	\$400.00
Bulletins/Herald	\$600.00	\$449.00	\$600.00
Radio Spots	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candles	\$90.00	\$120.00	\$200.00
Music and Licenses	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
Thrivent	\$2,000.00	\$1,937.00	\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Reimbursements Other	\$3,770.00	\$2,939.00	\$4,260.00
Total Annual Projected Revenue Budget	\$125,739.00	\$101,914.58	\$171,476.00

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Contribution Account Balances (January thru December 2014)

Account	YTD Balance
100 - Current	98,531.64
101 - Initial Envelope	316.00
102 - New Year's Day Envelope	175.00
103 - Birthday Envelope	245.00
105 - Improvement Fund	15,595.00
110 - Endowment Fund	10,581.50
113 - Bank Charges	5.00
116 - Oil Fund	2,420.00
121 - Vacation Bible School	124.04
125 - Flowers	251.00
131 - Benevolence	351.00
136 - Herald/ Bulletins	673.00
138 - Use of Facility	150.00
142 - Plate offering	4,622.31
143 - Sunday School offering	2.00
147 - Joyful Noise Offering	1,662.06
150 - Candles	125.00
151 - Baccalaureate Service Offering	346.00
154 - Culinary	15,452.20
165 - Helping Hand Fund	45.00
166 - Cemetery	430.60
168 - All Saints	71.00
169 - Reformation	191.00
170 - Organ Fund	20.00
171 - Current Memorial/Honorarium	6,928.50
172 - Advent Envelope	151.00
173 - Christmas Envelope	3,289.00
174 - Thanksgiving Envelope	229.00
175 - World Hunger Fund	1,437.30
176 - Lutheran World Relief Envelope	256.00
177 - Ash Wednesday Envelope	170.00
178 - Lenten Envelopes	1,069.00
179 - Maundy Thursday Envelopes	332.00
180 - Good Friday Envelopes	217.00
181 - Easter Envelopes	2,132.00
182 - Ascension envelope	183.00
183 - Pentecost envelope	231.00
184 - Harvest Home	129.00
187 - Reimbursement	487.00
188 - Senior Choir Offering	105.00
191 - Thrivent Fund	2,435.00
193 - Outreach	2,291.91
195 - Misc Pass Through Contribution	2,302.75
197 - Campership Fund Contributions	25.00
199 - Amazon Prime	5.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$176,790.81

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Giving Step Report

Giving Step Report: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015

Giving Range

\$0.00 - \$0.00	Count: 123
\$0.01 - \$52.00	Count: 80
\$52.01 - \$104.00	Count: 24
\$104.01 - \$156.00	Count: 11
\$156.01 - \$208.00	Count: 10
\$208.01 - \$260.00	Count: 12
\$260.01 - \$312.00	Count: 13
\$312.01 - \$364.00	Count: 9
\$364.01 - \$416.00	Count: 8
\$416.01 - \$468.00	Count: 2
\$468.01 - \$520.00	Count: 4
\$520.01 - \$780.00	Count: 14
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	Count: 8
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	Count: 5
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	Count: 10
\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00	Count: 6
\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00	Count: 6
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	Count: 1
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	Count: 2
\$3,640.01 - \$4,680.00	Count: 1
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	Count: 0
\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00	Count: 1
> \$6,240.01	Count: 1

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 active 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.

Last March, Church Council approved the use of myEoffering, an easy way for members to financially support Zion ministries. It's much like the automatic payment many have for regular bills such as electricity. For more information, visit the church website or call the Parish Office at 570-668-2180 and information will be mailed to you.

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 2016?

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.

Churches are often criticized for failing to come to the aid of a person or family in need but all too often those criticisms are issued by individuals or families that have not become engaged in their congregational family. Being an engaged member of the congregational family starts with regular worship attendance, but it doesn't end there.

Perhaps you will make it a personal goal this year to become a more active, engaged member of Zion 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, pew 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 2016 a year of growth.

ENDOWMENT FUND 2015 REPORT

Our endowment fund ended the year with a balance of \$334,386. Our gift funded back to Zion's was 14,632. Funds given back to our church, since the funds start up in 2000, was \$268,926.

2015 was not the best year for our investments, with a return off (1.73%). Everyone knows that the return on bank CD's is very low.

I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of endowment. Gifts received last year was \$10,581 ---this included a generous gift from the John Brown Estate.

Please note, the endowment fund has been greatly supported by deceased members' estates. We each have the opportunity to create an enduring legacy---by remembering Zion's in our wills, trusts, annuities or even gifts of war bonds. We do not get involved in any personal involvement, but would be happy to direct anyone to the ELCA other foundations. This to help us, as people of faith, to leave a lasting legacy.

The endowment committee is a subcommittee of finance, includes myself, Robert Jones, Steve Ristilla, and Jim Bateman.

Walter Weston, coordinator



OUTREACH 2015

Last year, Outreach magazine conducted interviews with 65 pastors from some of the fastest growing congregations in the country. Certain common themes developed. The number one theme shared by growing congregations was this: Know and serve your community.

Why should we get to know our community?

1. If no one knows the local church exists, no one will come to hear the Gospel.
2. The church should move from an inward focus to an outward reach.
3. People have traditionally seen the church seeking funding and attendance. Now they need to see the church giving back to the community.

What does it look like?

1. Work begins with the question "If our church disappeared tomorrow, would anyone (other than our own members) notice?"
2. Churches talk with local leaders-mayors, council members, police chiefs, and educators – to identify the greatest needs/ pain points in the community.
3. Church leaders come back to their congregation, present the needs and organize a response.
4. Churches take action and build long-term relationships with those in need.
5. Churches seek feedback about the work and refine their outreach.

What are the results?

1. The church receives positive visibility in the community.
2. The church takes the lead in social issues such as poverty, economic disparity and education.
3. The church sees an increase in attendance as the community sees the church in action.
4. Church members develop a passion for evangelism and outreach.

Tips to succeed:

1. Serve with no strings attached.
2. Commit to the long term. Knowing/serving takes time.
3. Share the vision and workload with lay leaders and small groups.
4. Ensure that church volunteers are properly trained for the work.

LATCH KEY PROGRAM

Deb Davies has given a detailed report on a possible Latch Key program that would start in the Fall of 2016. She has been working with Pastor Wolford on this idea.

Two days a week – Monday and Wednesday to start – 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For grades K to 5. Safe place for kids after school – might include a snack

Deb will check on our insurance coverage.

Staffing - Deb suggests presenting idea to TAFFN members for help

Should talk with school district officials soon to get a feel for their interest/support

Need district cooperation for busing

George Taylor has checked with the Community Partnership and Argall/Knowles people about possibility of funding – limited if it exists at all. We should consider seeking funding from the Morgan Foundation or the Walmart Foundation. To do that, would have to write a proposal.

Related to this, we will begin talks now with person in charge of the South Ward Playground's summer lunch program to see if that program could be expanded to the Dutch Hill area. We do not want to harm the existing program. We would continue talks if a Dutch Hill program would help the existing program.

EXISTING ZION OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Blanket ministry - Although we have not been sewing this year we have collected enough blankets to distribute to Butler Valley Nursing Center Drums, Pa., and Vincent St Paul Wilkes Barre, Pa. Homeless Center. We worked with other Churches in Hazleton to distribute these blankets. I received blankets from North Carolina, Hazleton, and put together the blankets that we had left from our sewing room. I want to thank everyone that helps with this ministry and look forward to sewing soon. Judy Brennan

Care Corps – Valentine's Day visit to Miner's Memorial 5th floor with gifts and cards

Cradle roll – Mailings to families of pre-school children who have had their children baptized at Zion.

Culinary Crew

Provided free lunch for fellowship time after fourth Saturday service of the month
Hosted free community dinner on New Year's Day – 107 served plus carry-outs
Hosted congregational events like the Advent program and First Communion reception

Christmas basket ministry – Three families were given baskets this Christmas season. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Faith Fellowship Network

Tamaqua Hunger Walk

48 boxes of food collected; \$3,597 collected; 66 walkers participated

Proceeds to food banks at Trinity UCC, Salvation Army and Primitive Methodist.

July 4th picnic baskets – 48 families served through this ecumenical activity

Advent Breakfast - Zion hosted the 5th annual event; 179 attended

Sponsored flyers for Holy Week and Christmas Eve services, Back to Church Sunday

Flower ministry – Altar flowers given to home-bound members when not taken by sponsors.

Joyful Noise - We have been able to give monies to ELCA Good Gift program, local charities, the Relay for Life, food baskets and food cards. Thank you for continuing to give and supporting the outreach programs that make a difference one coin at a time. Judy Brennan

January – St. Jude's Children's Hospital Research – \$86.80

February – Horses & Horizons Therapeutic Learning Center - \$80.00

March – Good Gifts – \$83.57

April – Charity Ball – \$63.09

May – Relay for Life – \$84.46

June – July 4th Food Baskets - \$78.83

July – Good Gifts/ Water Jugs - \$85.00

August – Helping Hands Fund - \$116.35

September – Food Cards for Harvest Home - \$111.91

October – Good Gifts (Mosquito nets for 3rd World Countries) - \$102.65

November – Food Cards for Christmas Baskets – \$137.40

December – Food Cards for Christmas Baskets –

Prayer shawl ministry – shawls given to shut-ins and anyone expressing a need.

Relay for Life - The Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society June 20-21 had 70 plus Zion family members participating at some point in the 24-hour event at Tamaqua High School Stadium. That only includes the actual attendees, not the Zion faithful who donated through Joyful Noise and other donations. Over \$700 was raised to support this community effort in Zion's name.

World/community mission

\$300 donation to Schuylkill Women in Crisis

\$50 donation to Kairos agency for families of prisoners

Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide outreach to support food banks done just prior to the Super Bowl. All donations made to Zion stay LOCAL! It may be a national campaign, but all funds/canned goods stay local. Last year, our 50 soup cans and \$50 went to the Salvation Army.

Harvest Home – food collected for local food banks

Daffodil Days in March supports the American Cancer Society. A dozen bunches were requested and delivered to those wanting a ray of hope and sunshine during the long winter months.

Saturday soup and service – free lunch follows service the fourth Saturday of the month

SOS-Share Our Surplus – Synod program – We distribute free laundry and personal care items to organizations, individuals and food banks. Volunteers from Zion have also worked at the distribution site in Easton.

Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank – We distribute diapers to families in our congregation and in the community.

Confirmants participated in the Samaritan's Purse project and collected enough money to purchase a goat and water supply for a needy family in a Third World country.

Zion has had a table at the summer and fall community festivals. Pencils, bookmarkers and church flyers distributed.

KIVA is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the Internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals or organizations lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. Kiva connects to millions of people around the world,

lending dollars to make the world a better place. Loans are borrowed to start and grow businesses, send children to school etc. all with a nearly 99% repayment rate. 2015 was a very successful giving year for our KIVA project. We received repayments enough to pay for four more loans. Our loans supported a Kenya farmer, Uganda personal housing, a U.S.A. restaurant, and an El Salvador butcher shop. I know that this outreach is one that gives people a chance to build credit while making a difference in the place where they live and work. Judy Brennan

Outreach meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Culinary Crew

2015 was a busy year for Culinary. We conducted 18 fund raising events and 24 give-back events. Through the numerous activities during the year – dinners, pie and cookie sales – allowed Culinary to provide Zion with \$14,476.08 worth of financial support in 2015.

\$5,369.23 towards the plumbing bill for the new handicapped bathroom

\$6,012.24 transferred to the current expenses fund

\$760 contributed for 8 people going on summer mission

\$130 for West Penn Park rental and other expenses for congregational picnic

\$2,204 for new tables for the fellowship area

We wish to thank everyone who helped in these events. We hope you'll continue to participate and support the upcoming events and make 2016 even more successful.

Goods N Stuff provides gently used clothing and household goods at extremely reasonable prices. Items remaining after the sale are given to other organizations for distribution. Two successful events held during the year brought in a little over \$3,000, half of which went to current expenses and half is used by Outreach for its activities.

Audit Report 2014

2014 Audit team was composed of: Walter Weston, Lori Krell, Lucy Gerace and Steve Ristila. The Audit was performed in the following way:

1. Every check in the checking account was validated from source to receiver.
2. All checks that were written in 2013, but not cashed until 2014 were accounted for.
3. Received bills were spot checked for payments.
4. Reviewed payroll checks.
5. Reviewed all deposits from checking to Money Market, and all transfers from Money Market to checking.
6. No discrepancies were found.
7. Un-cashed 2014 checks totaled \$ 4929.57.

End of 2014 report includes following balances: Checking Account - \$ 8871.78.

Money Market Account - \$ 80498.46.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC 2015

CHOIR, LECTORS, CANTORS, and ALL LITURGY LEADERS

After writing this annual report for more than 35 years, I see two consistent themes outstanding. First, a true gratitude for the people who serve in any position that makes our worship service more meaningful. The choir members share their talents to make our music beautiful. They rehearse diligently to learn their notes and blend their voices with a musical message that enforces the lessons or season. The cantors lead the parts of the service to guide us through the liturgy. The lectors read us God's word so we can hear His message each week. Communion assistants share the body and blood of Christ with us, taking part in the sacrament of communion. Soloists and instrumentalists enhance the worship experience. All of these volunteers give their time and their talents faithfully through the years to glorify God with their gifts and help all of us have the kind of worship experience that strengthens our faith on Sunday and carry us through the week.

The second theme that permeates the reports is the need for more people to help. Our choir practices each anthem for several weeks, so even if you are not an accomplished musician, you can learn the music and add your voice to ours. Lectors, cantors, communion assistants serve every few weeks. It is not a great time commitment, but it is a rewarding role for you and for the congregation.

I am asking you to do two things after you read this report. Please thank those persons who do serve as liturgy leaders, and please consider being a participant with us. All glory and praise is given to God for the gifts He has given to us.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra W. Mehalko



Parochial Report - 2015

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
12/20/15	Savanah Avery Mashack	Laura & Joel Mashack
12/20/15	Isaac Adam Lockard-Martin	Mathew Martin and Justine Lockard
12/20/15	Owen Michael Diaz	Tiffany Stefanovich and David Diaz,

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
2/28/15	Member	Chester Wolfe	98	3/5/15
5/11/15	Member	Robert C. Leiby	81	5/15/15
8/11/15	Member	Paul Jason Derr	40	8/15/15
8/14/15	Member	Mae E. Porambo	94	8/19/15
8/15/15	Member	Jane E. Steigerwalt	89	8/21/15
8/26/15	Member	Nelson J. Pollock	76	9/1/15
9/10/15	Member	Brian Fetterman	25	9/15/15
11/19/15	Member	Evelyn Mae Fulton	87	11/24/15
11/18/15	Non-Member	Elizabeth A. Nace	79	11/22/15
11/21/15	Member	Dorothy Lillian Collura	88	11/28/15
12/3/15	Member	Mary Ann Bittner	85	12/5/15

Confirmations

Date	Name
5/24/2015	Kailyn Marie Erbe
	William Zachery Frederick
	Peyton Noelle Gilbert
	Sierra Dawn Klinger
	Olivia Rose Lattanzi
	Sarah Ann Maue
	Gavin Bryce Richards
	Jacob Francis Rudy
	Kayla Marie Zamudio

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/22/15	Michael Benderawicz
	Kailey Richards
	Austin Wetherell
	Hailey Williams

Transfer Out

Date	Name	To
8/31/15	Taylor Boyce	Christ Lutheran, Mahanoy City, Pa
5/19/15	George & Julie Sanchez	St. John's Lutheran, Tamaqua, Pa
12/5/15	Ann Fisher – Matsago	St. John XXIII, Tamaqua, Pa

Withdrawn (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name	
11/12/15	Karen Miller	Per Request
12/15	250 individuals removed	Letters were sent in August to the 250 inquiring about their intention to stay active at Zion. No responses were received by Dec 31, 2015

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Christian Education Committee is a standing committee of the Church. Currently it is composed of Lucy Gerace, Phil Gerace, Gail Jones, Jan McRoberts, Jim McRoberts, George Taylor and Kayla Zamudio. Current teachers, Deb Davies, Beth Lattanzi, Mary Ruth Taylor and Kelsey Zamudio, have been named ex officio members and will receive mailings and invitations to attend as they wish. Pastor Goodwin and Vicar White also are ex-officio.

During 2015, programs included Confirmation, Sunday School, one Bible Study and one video lecture discussion series on Martin Luther, Vacation Bible School, and a video discussion series on discipleship. Cindy White led a mission trip for our youth. The mission was a part of a Tamaqua consortium.

At its January, 2016 meeting the committee began the preparation of an annual calendar of programs along with promotional vehicles, curricula, and manpower needs. Another mission trip, confirmation classes and projects, Sunday School, Bible studies, VBS, and video lecture series are in operation or are being planned.

Jan McRoberts will serve as secretary of the committee. A chairperson was not selected. Jim McRoberts will continue to serve as designated chair until one can be chosen.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McRoberts, Designated Convener