

# ***ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

***TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA***



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

**ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2019**

**Annual Meeting, February 9, 2020**

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**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 2020**

- I. Opening Devotion – Pastor Cindy White
  
- II. Establish a quorum – 30 attendees are needed, so please be sure to sign the attendance paper.
  
- III. Welcome and Introduction of Church Council and Staff – Frank Rudy, Bob Maue, Darlene Fetterman, Sam Caley, Bonnie Painter, Tiffany Warden, Nathan Gerace, Chris Henritz, Ernie Henritz, Mary Ruth Taylor, Michael Haspe, and Glenn Fritzinger.  
  
Staff: Melody Gensure - Parish Administrator  
Dave Gensure – Treasurer  
Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary  
Sandra Mehalko – Parish Musician  
Pastor- Cindy White
  
- IV. Adoption of minutes of February and December 2019 Congregational meetings.
  
- V. Reception of Financial Reports  
Treasurer - Dave Gensure  
Financial Secretary - Ann Marie Hadesty  
Audit - 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  
President’s 2019 Summary Frank Rudy  
President’s 2020 Goals
  
- VIII. Old Business
  
- IX. New Business  
Pastor’s Goals – Pastor Cindy White
  
- X. Adjournment and closing devotions





## PARISH STAFF 2020

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

### COUNCIL – 2020

	Term	Ending	
Frank Rudy	2nd	12/31/20	President /Capital Campaign
Bob Maue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12/31/21	Property
Darlene Fetterman	2nd	12/31/20	Secretary /Capital Campaign/ Mutual Ministry
Sam Caley	2nd	12/31/22	Finance/ Stewardship, Evangelism
Tiffany Warden	2nd	12/31/22	Sunday School Teacher
Bonnie Painter	2nd	12/31/22	
Nate Gerace	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/20	Diaper Depot
Ernie Henritzky	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/21	Mutual Ministry/Cleaning Angels
Chris Henritzky	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/21	Vice-president
Mary Ruth Taylor	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/22	Culinary/Sunday School Teacher/Mutual Ministry
Michael Haspe	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/22	Culinary/Christian Ed. Director
Glenn Fritzingier	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/22	Culinary

### PARISH LEADERS

Altar Guild	Sandy Graham - 570-449-1092
Finance	Bob Jones - rjones4621@aol.com
Endowment	Walter Weston - gutww@verizon.net
Mutual Ministry	Pastor White- loupastor4@gmail.com
Capital Campaign	Dave Fetterman – dfet@ptd.net
Outreach Secretary	George Taylor - <a href="mailto:gtay200@verizon.net">gtay200@verizon.net</a>
Culinary Crew	Ralph Derr – ralph4@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	
Stewardship/Evangelism	Sam Caley
Catechetical Coordinator	Pastor White
Acolyte Director	Art Connely
Head Usher	
Sunday Service Leaders -	George Taylor, Ells Davis, Mark Valentine, Gerry Zeigler
Parish Nurse	Melissa D'Alanzo
Worship and Music	Sandy Mehalko
Vacation Bible School	Michael Haspe

## **Congregational Meeting Minutes February 10, 2019**

Council President, Frank Rudy, called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with 47 members present.

Council members and staff were introduced.

Council President -Frank Rudy, Vice-President – Bob Maue, Secretary – Darlene Fetterman, Sam Caley, Paul Fegley, Bonnie Painter, Tiffany Warden, Gerry Zeigler, Nathan Gerace, Andrew Deitrich, Chris Henritzy, and Ernie Henritzy.

Staff: Parish Administrator – Melody Gensure, Treasurer – Dave Gensure, Financial Secretary - Ann Marie Hadesty, Parish Musician – Sandy Mehalko and Pastor – Cindy White.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February and December 2018 Congregational minutes were approved on the motion of Dave Fetterman, seconded by Chris Henritzy.

Financial Reports: The Treasurer's, Financial Secretary's, Endowment, and Audit reports were reviewed and then accepted on the motion of Sharon Haldeman, seconded by Sandy Mehalko.

Committee Reports:

Altar Guild – More members would be appreciated. It does not take a lot of time.

Property – Mark Valentine spoke about the various projects that were completed in 2018. He addressed a question concerning the present steam heating system. It has been looked into in the past and is cost prohibitive to change the system to a hot water system. He also explained that there are various zones in the church and parsonage, so we do not need to heat everything at one time.

Various people gave accolades to the work done by the committee and members who have worked on the many projects. The money saved this year, by this work, amounted to approximately \$14, 500. This is significant and greatly appreciated.

Finance – Bob Jones reviewed the Financial Report and especially encouraged members to be diligent with their Current Fund Giving, along with contributing to the Capital Campaign. He also encouraged members to use Boyer's and Redner's tags along with Amazon Smile, noting that every little bit helps. He noted the money we have received from Thrivent cards, which has been very helpful with our Culinary projects.

Sunday School – Mary Ruth Taylor stated that the Children's Classes are continuing to grow. The children are collecting dimes in small beverage bottles for the Capital Campaign. So far they have presented one filled bottle containing \$79.10.

Endowment Fund – Walter Weston reported that in 2018 we had a loss of 3.7%. On a good note, the Capital Campaign paid back their original loan of \$128,000 plus interest, paying off the first phase of our exterior restoration.

Outreach – George Taylor spoke about our many Outreach programs, and also encouraged members to become active in our present outreach activities as well as continuing to address needs in our community with new programs.

Culinary – Ralph Derr reviewed the activities for the year and the contributions made to the church.

Worship and Music – Sandy Mehalko thanked all of the people who participate in our services, especially the young people who are serving.

Capital Campaign – Dave Fetterman reviewed the action steps taken by the committee in 2018, including the hiring of consultant firm, Kirby Smith. We have been working with our advisor, Jim Edwards and will continue to so for the next few months. He also reiterated Bob Jones’s reminder for members to be faithful with their current giving, while supporting the Capital Campaign.

All reports were reviewed and accepted on the motion of Mark Valentine, seconded by Paul Fegley.

State of the Congregation -

Zion Ministries and Activities – This table reviews all of the things Zion is doing. Members are encouraged to see where they might like to contribute their time and talents.

It was noted that new members are continuing to be received and the increase in attendance is continuing.

President Frank Rudy stated that we have taken a large step forward in 2018 and are continuing to grow in members and programs. We need to continue to look at moving forward and everyone is encouraged to find a place to contribute their time, talents and means.

New Business:

On the motion of Property Chair, Mark Valentine, seconded by Sam Caley, the group approved moving ahead with Phase 2 of the Exterior Restoration. This will involve the Chime Tower repairs along with the installation of vented panels to prevent rain and snow from getting in, while allowing air to circulate. The cost will be \$188,800, with DeGruchy Construction doing the work. The money will be borrowed from the Endowment Fund and paid back through the Capital Campaign.

Pastor Cindy White expressed her thanks for everyone’s support. Two of her goals for 2018 have been met. A mutual Ministry Committee is in place and Christian Education is continuing to grow. Her goals for 2019 include: Completing a church directory, establishing a stewardship/evangelism program and visiting inactive members over a 3-year period. This year’s message will be Stewardship to help people discover how they contribute their time and talent, along with monetary contributions and support for the Capital Campaign.

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Mark Valentine, seconded by Chris Henritz and closed with prayer by Pastor Cindy.

Following the meeting Dave Boehm, PSP, Berks County Public Information Officer, presented information on Active Shooter Safety Strategies.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Fetterman, Council Secretary

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**March 10, 2019**

A special congregational meeting was held to present the increase in the cost of the chime tower repair. Vice-president Bob Maue presided over the meeting, in the absence of president Frank Rudy. It was established that a quorum was present, with 35 members in attendance.

The new cost of the work to be done by DeGruchy Construction showed an increase of 5%, which will be approximately \$9500.

A motion to approve this increase was made by Dave Fetterman, seconded by Isabel Houser, and was passed by those in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Sandy Mehalko, seconded by Mark Valentine.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Fetterman, Council Secretary

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Annual Fiscal Meeting**

December 8, 2019

President Frank Rudy called the meeting to order and expressed that Holy Manners were in effect. It was determined that a quorum was present with 37 members attending.

Pastor Cindy White opened the meeting with prayer.

The agenda was confirmed. Only two items were open for discussion, the 2020 Budget and the election of new Council members.

**2020 Budget**

There was a motion from the Congregational Council: Council recommends the adoption of the 2020 Expense and Revenue Budgets as presented. This motion was seconded by Rochelle Evanousky. After a discussion of the budget and the continuing financial concerns facing Zion, the budget was passed, with no votes in opposition.

**Election of Congregational Council members**

The nominees for Church Council were Mary Ruth Taylor, Glenn Fritzinger, and Michael Haspe. These nominations were for a first term, ending 2022.

There being no nominations from the floor, a vote by Acclamation was taken on the three named candidates. The candidates were elected, with no votes in opposition.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Gerry Zeigler, seconded by Ernie Henritzky.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Fetterman, Council Secretary

## ***Pastor's Annual Report For January 2019-December 2019***

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

God continues to give us many things to be thankful for here at Zion. We received 22 new members into our faith fellowship this year. Many of which we inherited from Advent Lutheran Church in Tuscarora. All of our current ministries are going very well. The mutual ministries committee meets as needed. A new Christian education director was elected, Michael Haspe and a new ministry was established, Loaves and fishes to enrich our outreach ministry and get our youth involved on a more regular basis. I started to assist the Episcopal Church preaching for them once a month with the permission of the council.

1. My goal for establishing a stewardship/evangelism committee has been met. Sam Caley created a Stewardship plan which we will be following over the next year. The members of the committee are Sam Caley, Laura Fulmer, Christ Henritzy, Monica Aikens and Mary Richards. George Taylor and I attended a seminar on Stewardship in January and I plan to share this information with the committee. Our first task is to contact all of the inactive members. I had begun this prior to establishing this committee.

2. I was unable to have Lifetouch start a new directory due to electrical work needing to be completed on the dates we had scheduled for 2019. They will be here Monday March 30-April 1<sup>st</sup>. 2020 to take individual and family portraits.

### **My goals this year:**

1. Move into Year two with Stewardship with meeting with inactive members and create two evangelism events for the community to attend.

2. Create and complete a new mission statement with Council. Our current one is not inclusive enough. (in my opinion) This was confirmed in the Stewardship seminar George and I attended.

3. Meet with committee chairs monthly to ensure all important information is given to me regarding anything going on at Zion.

4. Have a recovery service here at Zion two times a month. (council voted yes to this) The closest recovery service is in Reading. Consulted with Pastor Tom Scornavacci who is mentoring Pastor Deb Taylor and I to conduct a service under the Common ground name here in Tamaqua. Hope and coffee will be involved with refreshments for these services.

My continuing Education requirement will be completed by attending a conference in San Diego, California regarding recovering ministries, paid for by the ELCA from Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. (This was approved by our Executive committee.)

May we continue to move forward in faith. Your prayers for your pastor are needed and appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout 2020 to hear our Creator's word and share Christ's love in all we say and do.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Cindy L. White



## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – 2019

*<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. [Philippians 1:6]*

In 2016, as a community of faith, we came together and agreed to stay in this building after evaluating other options. Since that time, we started a capital campaign to make necessary structural improvements, which has progressed through phase 2 and positions us to finalize the project. We have a full-time pastor, which is a blessing given the number of church's that struggle to find or afford a pastor. 2019 was another year of growth – new members, more outreach.

One notable achievement for 2019 was Christian education. We now have a full-time Superintendent; more children are engaged, and there are continued opportunities for adults. Just as restoring the physical integrity of our building, Christian education is part of our foundation that will enable us to grow. Thank you to Mr. Michael Haspe for his efforts as our superintendent.

Every committee continues to do outstanding work to make Zion's a leader in our community. I encourage you to take the time to be aware of their efforts and recognize their contributions.

I encourage each person to reflect on your gifts and blessings and prayerfully consider how you can help – time, talent, means. There is an opportunity and a need for greater participation. Do not underestimate yourself. Everyone is welcome and has a role to play.

We will continue to move forward in faith. Amidst our progress, we still have our challenges, but we trust in God.

Like so many church's in our area, our greatest challenge is income. We continue to struggle to balance our budget. We are so very grateful for the generosity of many, but we still need to pursue greater participation in giving and other sources of income. This will be a focus of Council's 2020 efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of Council, Committees, Zion staff, and the members of Zions. Your efforts, prayers and patience are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frank Rudy

## **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2019**

### **JANUARY**

- ✓ The following officers were elected: President: Frank Rudy, Vice-president: Bob Maue, Secretary: Darlene Fetterman.
- ✓ A thank you note was received from Gayle Heath at the Tamaqua Public Library. The Library was very grateful for Zion's donation from Pastor Cindy's Christmas Concert.
- ✓ Dillon Epler was approved as our new Christian Education Director.
- ✓ Sandy Mehalko has begun working with Ann Marie Hadesty to be able to compile Capital Campaign information.

### **FEBRUARY**

- ✓ A proposal for the Evangelism/Stewardship Committee was approved.
- ✓ A special Congregational Meeting will be held on March 10, to approve the 5% increase in the new Phase 2 Proposal.
- ✓ Jeff Freeman, a Thrivent representative will be contacted to speak at a Council Meeting

### **MARCH**

- ✓ Jeff Freeman, a Thrivent representative, attended the meeting and explained the various Thrivent products and services that are available. Zion can benefit from our members belonging to Thrivent. Please follow the link that is on our website, or speak with a council member for more information.
- ✓ Bob Jones, Finance Chair, attended the meeting to discuss the shortfall in the current giving. It has become difficult to meet expenses without using money from the Emergency Fund.
- ✓ Work will begin on the Exterior Restoration Project in April.
- ✓ Gail Jones is working on revitalizing Care Corps.
- ✓ Joe Mehalko and Matt Warden will audit the Endowment Fund.
- ✓ Steve Ristila, Lori Krell, Marilyn Leipold, and Walter Weston will perform the Annual Audit.
- ✓ Sam Caley will chair the Evangelism/Stewardship Group.

### **APRIL**

- ✓ Zion will make a \$100.00 donation to the Tamaqua Fire Department.
- ✓ The Capital Campaign will be 2% interest to the Endowment Fund for the money borrowed for the Exterior Restoration.
- ✓ The office will be closed July 22 – 26, and August 12 -16.
- ✓ The budget shortfall was discussed. Finance Chair, Bob Jones commented that Finance is monitoring expenses. The Evangelism/Stewardship Committee will address this further. Council continues to encourage members to be mindful of their Current Giving.

### **MAY**

- ✓ Matt Robb, Thrivent Representative and Carolyn Wilt, Thrivent community Engagement Leader, attended the meeting to explain Thrivent opportunities.
- ✓ Nate Gerace provided a short presentation on Financial Peace University and potential benefits for the congregation.
- ✓ Council approved a new Youth Ministry, Loaves and Fishes. This will become part of the Confirmation Curriculum in the fall. Michael Haspe and Dillon Epler, along with Pastor Cindy, will be involved with this ministry.
- ✓ A communication process was established for committees that need money from the Endowment Fund.

## **JUNE**

- ✓ New Member and Visitor Packets are complete.
- ✓ Council is looking to help Veterans who need something or need something done, for God's Work, our Hands in September.
- ✓ Council approved the placement of a Little Free Pantry Box by the stage door. More information about this project will be forthcoming.

## **JULY**

- ✓ Mary Ruth Taylor was elected to replace Andrew Deitrich, who stepped down from Council due to other responsibilities. We thank Andy for his contributions.
- ✓ Michael Haspe was approved as Sunday School Superintendent.
- ✓ Nine members are officially transferring from Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora, which recently closed.
- ✓ It was decided that the new Visitor Packets would be placed in the pews.
- ✓ A committee was set up to plan God's Work, Our Hands, which will take place on Sunday, September 8.
- ✓ Bob Maue, Property Liaison, stressed that the downstairs piano is not to be moved. It could be unsafe to do so.
- ✓ It was decided that since no one has come forward to organize this year's picnic, and it is the same date as the Schuylkill County Fireman's Parade in Tamaqua, the picnic would be cancelled for this year. It will be revisited next year.
- ✓ It has been clarified that Rick Bachman is the Cemetery Caretaker/Secretary.

## **AUGUST**

- ✓ Mary Ruth Taylor and Michael Haspe will be trained as Eucharistic Ministers. Council is very grateful to Paul Fegley for his years of service to this ministry.
- ✓ Confirmation guidelines were approved. Confirmation students will use LUTHERANISM 101 for their Year 1 study. Year 2 students will use LUTHERANISM 101 and the Spark Study Bible.
- ✓ Council approved the use of the online church directory, Instant Church Directory. More information about this will be forthcoming.
- ✓ If you have information for the monthly Herald, please make note of the deadline listed in the bulletin and make sure your information gets to the office in a timely manner. It is important for the Herald to go out on time.
- ✓ Pastor Cindy is holding a worship service at the Hometown Nursing Home the last Sunday of each month. If you would like more information or would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please see Pastor.

## **SEPTEMBER**

- ✓ Olivia Lattanzi was approved for a Zion Scholarship. This one time scholarship is available to all Zion post high school students who have served the church. Please call the office to receive an application.
- ✓ New cemetery rules and regulations were approved.
- ✓ A Seminary Scholarship Fund will be set up in order to support our seminarian. This fund is separate from our Scholarship Fund. More information will follow.
- ✓ Approval was given for a Tree of Remembrance to be set up in the Gathering Room. Stay tuned for more information.

## **OCTOBER**

- ✓ Zion Scholarships were approved for Sarah Maue, Jacob Rudy and Kalyn Erbe.
- ✓ The Life Touch photo directory project will be rescheduled in the spring, due to conflicts with our electrical work.
- ✓ Zion will be involved in the Spirit of Christmas Church Tours to be held on December 14.
- ✓ The proposed 2020 Budget was approved by Council and will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on December 8.

## **NOVEMBER**

- ✓ Our annual donations to the Tamaqua Ambulance Association and the Tamaqua Fire Police were approved.
- ✓ It was noted that the Parish Administrator's Office needs a new phone system and a new computer. The Parish Administrator, Melody Gensure, will research this and recommendations will be made to the appropriate committees.
- ✓ Outreach Committee will purchase a license so that Family Film Nights can be held. The films were well received at the Trunk or Treat event.
- ✓ The Council terms of Gerry Zeigler and Paul Fegley will be up at the end of 2019. If you are interested in serving on Council, please see Pastor Cindy or any council member.

## **DECEMBER**

- ✓ No meeting due to weather

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Fetterman, 2019 Council Secretary

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## ***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. Please contact Sandy if you're interested in helping!

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Graham, Coordinator

## PARISH STATISTICS

### WORSHIP SERVICES

106	2011
106	2012
92	2013
112	2014
106	2015
108	2016
112	2017
120	2018
115	2019

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

15	2011
12	2012
50	2013
45	2014
23	2015
10	2016
14	2017
12	2018
10	2019

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Baptized Membership	725	741
Confirmed Members	372	388
Confirmed Members Who:		
Communed	230	216
Did Not Commune (of record)	142	172
Contributed	245	245
Did Not Contribute (of record)	127	143
Communed <b>AND</b> Contributed	193	184
Neither Communed <b>NOR</b> Contributed	96	112
Communed Did Not Contribute (of record)	34	31
Contributed Did Not Commune (of record)	49	61
 Non-Confirmed Communing Membership	 3	 4
 Members received by Baptism (Child)	 8	 5
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	2	5
New First Communicants	3	2
 Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer		
(Baptized)	0	11
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	11
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by		
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	21	11
(Baptized/Confirmed)	18	6
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	1	3
 Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	 0	 0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	0	4
(Confirmed)	0	4
Member Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0
 Members who were taken by Death	 10	 10
Non-Member Deaths	0	1
 Marriages	 2	 2



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

A committed group of people have been working throughout the year to maintain and improve the facilities at Zion. We are blessed with people who give of their time and talents to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending worship and other events at Zion.

We thank our sexton Kim Eckert and our cleaning angels. For those unfamiliar with the cleaning angels, these are volunteers who each week give the Sanctuary, Gathering Room and Library a thorough cleaning. We are always looking for addition angels so here is an excellent way for a Zion member to serve the church.

Ron Dietrich and Rick Bachman oversee the maintenance of the cemetery. Rick is cemetery secretary. Help is always appreciated during spring clean-up and summer mowing and trimmings.

### GOALS FOR 2019

- Develop and update an annual maintenance schedule – Ongoing
- Review and update property files in parish office
- Update (and perhaps digitize) cemetery records
- Complete thermostat replacements – In progress
- Continue wall restoration work where and when needed - Ongoing
- Replace failing window insulating material
- Review lighting options in stairwells - Completed
- Recruit additional cleaning angels - Ongoing
- Freshen front vestibule –Work in progress

### GOALS FOR 2020

- Develop and update an annual maintenance schedule – Ongoing
- Replace sanctuary lights with LED bulb and a new dimming system
- Repair retaining wall at rear of church.
- Review and update property files in parish office
- Update (and perhaps digitize) cemetery records
- Complete thermostat replacements
- Continue wall restoration work where and when needed
- Freshen front vestibule – work in progress
- Recruit additional cleaning angels – in progress

### EXTERIOR

Phase II of the exterior restoration project was completed in the spring at a cost of \$228,000 funded through the capital campaign with loan from Zion's endowment fund.

As part of phase II, louvers were install in the chime towers. Failing attic louvers were also replaced.

Plugged downspout issues were addressed.

Battery-operated lighting units have been installed in back stairwells.

Damaged handicapped entrance signs replaced.

Dave Hadesty looked at retaining wall behind parsonage-said it looks sound but the stucco facing is failing and could be replaced.

A post-July 4<sup>th</sup> roof inspection showed no fireworks damage.

Handicapped entrance railing painted.

Installed "People's Pantry" on Greenwood Street side of church.

### INTERIOR

All required inspections completed (lifts, boiler).

Basement handicapped bathroom wall and toilet issues addressed. New grinder installed at cost of \$2,317.72.

Work continues on restoring water-damaged wall.

Work was completed on the Sunday school coordinator's office. Bob Maue refinished the desk for use in that office.

Larry McCullion installed new lighting in the window above the main altar.

Electrical work required following an insurance inspection was completed at a cost of \$9,482.

Cracked pews in the sanctuary were repaired.  
An extension ladder was installed in the chime tower to make access to the top easier.  
Judy Brennan and Michael Haspe cleaned and reorganized rooms in the third floor.  
A new dehumidifier was purchased for use downstairs.  
Blanket ministry room was cleaned and organized and the blanket ministry resumed meetings.  
All Zion rooms have been assigned a number and signage installed.  
Bell tower leaks have caused damage again in the tower stairwell.  
Walls of the all-gender bathroom at the Upper Mauch Chunk entrance have been scraped. No evidence of new water damage.  
An Ethernet line was run to the Sunday school supt.'s office.  
New phones have been purchased for the offices and kitchen area.  
An interior doorbell has been installed tied to the Upper Mauch Chunk Street doorbell button.

#### CEMETERY

Tate Ehrig proposed a composting facility as his Eagle project.  
Rules and regulations were reviewed and revised and sent to council.  
The cemetery caretaker job description was reviewed, revised and sent to council.  
Ron Dietrich supervised the "God's Work, Our Hands' Sunday cemetery clean-up.

#### PARSONAGE

Our exterior contractor, DeGruchy, examined some structural areas which need attention. The estimate is \$20,209.70. Could be part of the restoration project. Will be taken to congregational meeting.

#### OTHER ISSUES

The video "Preserving the Past, Ensuring the Future" was produced and posted on Zion's Facebook page showing the work done on Phase II of the exterior restoration project.  
A new sweeper was purchased for use by the cleaning teams.  
The property team completed cleaning of the alleyway and reorganization of the closets between the church and parsonage.  
Property's 2020 \$10,000 budget line includes the chime tower roof replacement and sanctuary conversion to LED lighting project.

#### ONGOING ISSUES

Nothing outside Zion again this year said "It's Christmas!" Suggestion: Using the 3 wreaths we have in the attic somewhere outside other than over the doors.  
Cleaning Angels are needed. The more teams available, the fewer times each team must clean.

#### PROPERTY TEAM COST-SAVINGS

From putting out the garbage and recycling every week to more labor intensive maintenance projects at the church and cemetery, property volunteers save Zion hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars this past year. We thank those individuals who regularly give of their time and talents to maintain our beautiful facilities and cemetery.  
We welcome anyone who has some free time and would enjoy the fellowship the property team provides.



## ENDOWMENT FUND 2019 REPORT



Our Endowment purpose is to invest conservatively, then give back 4 1/2% of the Fund value each year toward current expenses at our church. Also the Fund is available for emergency's, and recently to help finance our exterior restoration.

We started in 2000 by investing \$103,773, that our Finance committee had invested in Lutheran Brotherhood Funds. Over the years we received BEQUESTS (deceased members remembering Zion's in their wills) of \$269,829. We also thank our members for their weekly/yearly gifts to the Fund.

Highlights for 2009 include give back of \$16,716 toward current expenses. Also loan of \$175,000 toward exterior restoration. Total give back to church since inception was \$354,438. Our return on investments for 2019 was \$58,792 or 20.2%, Value of Fund now at \$447,312 and Principal at \$439,993. We are proud of our achievements, but looking back---we really got started because of two large BEQUESTS made in 2000.

Present committee members are Walter Weston, Rochelle Evanousky, Bob Jones, Steve Ristila and new member Matt Warden.

Respectfully Submitted

Walter Weston  
Endowment Coordinator

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### *Audit*

The Annual Audit for 2018 was done on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The participants were: Steve Ristila, Walter Weston, Lori Krell and Marilyn Leipold. All deposits for the checking account were verified for their accuracy. Beginning and closing monthly statements were checked to verify balances. In addition, all money transfers to-and- from the Money Market account were verified for their accuracy. Payroll checks and expense checks were randomly selected to ensure that bank records matched. The committee was in agreement that all accounts were in agreement, and no further action was needed. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Ristila, Audit Chairperson.



## Zion Finance Committee Report 2019

Robert Jones, Chairperson; Steven Ristila, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; George Taylor; Walter Weston; Rochelle Evanousky; Matthew Warden and Council Member Sam Caley serve on Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Finance Committee.

One of the biggest challenges we have to deal with every year is the budget. We began working on the 2020 budget in September. Because income continues to lag behind actual expenses we were unable to submit a balanced budget to Council.

We ended 2019 with a budget deficit of \$32,973.86

Budget Contributions 2019 \$164,490.80

Budget Expenses 2019

\$197,464.66

Budget Behind (\$32,973.86)

Income 2019

\$428,272.77

Expenses 2019

\$451,707.58

Behind (\$23,434.81)

Income 2019 with Campaign Removed

\$177,628.53

Expenses 2019 with Capital Campaign Removed

\$206,563.78

Behind (\$28,935.52)

Other Income:

The Endowment Fund gave the Church \$16,716.00 to pay the annual insurance premium. Thanks to that committee for managing the Church's assets.

The Culinary Crew worked very hard again this year and turned \$19,000 over to the Church. We thank the Culinary Crew for all their dedication and hard work.

Another vital source of income that is Thrivent. Many of our members have savings invested with this organization. All qualified members are eligible to apply for 2 Thrivent Action Team Projects per year. Thrivent gives a \$250 "Community Impact Card" which is a VISA card which may be used as seed money to purchase supplies. Both Culinary and Property have had Action Teams this past year to work on various projects and socials. In addition Thrivent also has what is called "Choice Dollars". Eligible members can designate where

Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable money. The amount a person receives is based on their insurance premiums and contract values. As a result of this program Zion received \$1,533 last year. We thank all of our Thrivent members for what they have done to help the Church throughout the past year.

Please continue to use your Boyer's and Redner's cards when shopping. The Church received \$519.01 from Boyers, \$129.03 from Redners and \$57.98 from Amazon Smiles.

We have a hard working, dedicated Finance Team and I thank everyone for all the effort they put into our work this past year. I especially want to thank both Dave and Ann Marie for the exceptional work they do. The Capital Campaign has put additional responsibilities on the both of them and they continue to meet those challenges.

Our Parish Administrator, Melody, while not a member of the Finance Committee is an integral part of the team. She prepares copies of the agenda, minutes and reports for every meeting. So I thank you for all your help and hard work.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Jones, Finance Committee Chairperson

# ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET 2020

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Donations	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$350.00
<b>Total Commitment</b>	<b>\$6,530.00</b>	<b>\$6,430.00</b>	<b>\$6,530.00</b>

## Pastor Expenses

Pastor Salary	\$35,403.00	\$35,402.90	\$36,465.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Pastor Life Insurance	\$1,540.00	\$1,710.84	\$1,711.00
Pastor Health Insurance	\$8,628.00	\$15,787.58	\$19,021.00
Pastor Other Expenses (Intern)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor Pension	\$4,530.00	\$5,031.96	\$4,636.00
Pastor Social Security Allowance	\$3,305.00	\$3,321.76	\$3,386.00
Pastor Continuing Education	\$275.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Pastor Housing Equity	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
Vacation Supply	\$500.00	\$150.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Pastor Expenses</b>	<b>\$58,211.00</b>	<b>\$62,835.04</b>	<b>\$70,149.00</b>

## Lay Staff Exp

Parish Administrator	\$17,047.00	\$14,486.55	\$17,559.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$9,237.00	\$9,237.28	\$9,514.00
Maintenance Sexton/Snow Removal	\$1,200.00	\$318.00	\$1,200.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$5,933.00	\$5,932.68	\$6,111.00
Financial Secretary	\$2,622.00	\$2,622.62	\$2,700.00
Treasurer	\$3,278.00	\$3,278.08	\$3,376.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>Total Lay Staff Exp</b>	<b>\$39,517.00</b>	<b>\$35,875.21</b>	<b>\$40,660.00</b>

## Administration

Office Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$892.24	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment	\$2,400.00	\$3,877.60	\$2,400.00
Mailings	\$800.00	\$745.00	\$800.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$1,400.00	\$1,655.62	\$1,400.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,400.00	\$1,645.00	\$1,600.00
Advertising & Media	\$600.00	\$296.55	\$600.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$800.00	\$130.00	\$600.00
<b>Total Adm. Exp.</b>	<b>\$8,600.00</b>	<b>\$9,242.01</b>	<b>\$8,400.00</b>

## Property

Fuel Oil	\$20,000.00	\$20,533.40	\$20,000.00
Electricity	\$7,200.00	\$4,898.60	\$7,200.00
Phone	\$840.00	\$1,074.77	\$1,400.00
Internet	\$1,680.00	\$1,681.50	\$1,680.00
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$5,876.64	\$10,000.00
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$350.00	\$259.65	\$350.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$2,100.00	\$2,453.00	\$2,300.00
Cemetery/Mower Expenses	\$600.00	\$330.79	\$600.00
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>\$43,270.00</b>	<b>\$37,108.35</b>	<b>\$44,030.00</b>

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED</b>			
Improvement Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$9,729.84	\$5,000.00
Organ Repair Expenses	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$480.00
<b>Total Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$10,480.00</b>	<b>\$9,729.84</b>	<b>\$5,480.00</b>

### Insurance

Employer Share Taxes	\$6,000.00	\$6,401.86	\$5,000.00
Insurance	\$16,000.00	\$15,142.00	\$16,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,100.00	\$920.00	\$1,100.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>\$23,100.00</b>	<b>\$22,463.86</b>	<b>\$22,100.00</b>

### Worship and Music

Music	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$1,500.00	\$2,699.98	\$1,700.00
Communion Supplies	\$650.00	\$501.58	\$650.00
Candles	\$500.00	\$940.08	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$400.00	\$548.05	\$400.00
Bulletins	\$1,000.00	\$2,158.94	\$1,200.00
Acolytes	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$350.00	\$386.19	\$350.00
Ministry Materials	\$250.00	\$168.00	\$250.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$850.00	\$760.00	\$850.00
Worship Materials	\$500.00	\$556.14	\$500.00
Music Vacation Supply	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
Web Cast	\$2,000.00	\$1,188.00	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>\$8,575.00</b>	<b>\$10,106.96</b>	<b>\$8,175.00</b>

### Christian Education

Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies	\$500.00	\$512.78	\$500.00
Adult Education	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Vac. Church School	\$500.00	\$363.66	\$500.00
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>\$876.44</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>

### Stewardship & Evang

Offering Envelopes	\$2,000.00	\$1,707.82	\$2,000.00
Stewardship	\$700.00	\$780.18	\$700.00
<b>Total Stewardship &amp; Evang</b>	<b>\$2,700.00</b>	<b>\$2,488.00</b>	<b>\$2,700.00</b>

### Social Ministry

Parish Nurse	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>Total Social Ministry</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

### MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS

Bank Charges	\$75.00	\$11.00	\$50.00
Special Events	\$300.00	\$237.95	\$300.00
Health Benefit Account			
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$60.00	\$100.00
<b>Total Misc Budgeted Accounts</b>	<b>\$475.00</b>	<b>\$308.95</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$203,158.00</b>	<b>\$197,464.66</b>	<b>\$210,374.00</b>

### **Non-Budgeted Misc Accts**

ELCA Benevolence		\$304.00	
World Hunger		\$1,360.00	
LWR		\$261.00	
Missionary/Joyful Noise		\$1,597.01	
Scholarships		\$400.00	
Seminary Scholarship		\$600.00	
Annuity Expense			
Harvest Home			
Tree of Remembrance Expense		109.97	
Misc Pass Through Expense			
<b>Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,631.98</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### **FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED**

Culinary Expenses		\$3,020.23	
Helping Hands Expense		\$0.00	
Improvement Expense			
Ministerial Expense		\$523.97	
Outreach Expense		\$2,922.27	
Senior Choir Expense		\$121.35	
Scholarship Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Library Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Campership Expense		\$0.00	
Capital Campaign Expenses		\$234,302.14	
Cap. Camp. Repay Endowment		\$10,000.00	
Interest Paid on Endowment		\$841.66	
Mission Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Zion Diaper Fund Expense		\$1,588.23	
<b>Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$253,319.85</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$203,158.00</b>	<b>\$455,416.49</b>	<b>\$210,374.00</b>

## ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH REVENUE BUDGET 2020

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>Weekly Offerings</b>			
*Envelopes	\$135,000.00	\$95,811.94	\$100,000.00
Plate	\$7,000.00	\$6,303.25	\$6,500.00
Sunday School	0	\$707.28	\$300.00
<b>Total Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>\$142,000.00</b>	<b>\$102,822.47</b>	<b>\$106,800.00</b>
<b>Special Gifts</b>			
Reformation	\$250.00	\$112.00	\$200.00
Birthdays	\$500.00	\$574.00	\$650.00
All Saints	\$200.00	\$97.00	\$185.00
Thanksgiving	\$300.00	\$203.00	\$265.00
Ash Wednesday	\$550.00	\$320.00	\$400.00
Lenten Gifts	\$950.00	\$685.00	\$875.00
Maundy Thursday	\$900.00	\$812.00	\$850.00
Good Friday	\$250.00	\$266.00	\$250.00
Easter	\$2,000.00	\$1,563.00	\$1,600.00
Ascension	\$200.00	\$166.00	\$175.00
Pentecost	\$150.00	\$126.00	\$125.00
Advent	\$245.00	\$622.00	\$400.00
Christmas	\$3,000.00	\$3,641.00	\$3,000.00
New Year	\$150.00	\$52.00	\$100.00
Memorials/Honorarium	\$4,000.00	\$3,138.00	\$4,000.00
Energy	\$2,000.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,500.00
Boyer's Cards		\$519.01	\$500.00
Amazon Prime		\$57.98	\$50.00
Redners Receipts		\$129.03	\$130.00
<b>Total Specials Gifts</b>	<b>\$15,645.00</b>	<b>\$14,133.02</b>	<b>\$15,255.00</b>
<b>Designated Gifts</b>			
Organ Fund	\$200.00	\$5.00	\$200.00
Cemetery Fund	\$1,000.00	\$68.00	\$1,000.00
Improvement Fund	\$5,000.00	\$3,920.50	\$5,000.00
VBS		\$278.96	\$275.00
Endowment Gift	17,000	\$16,716.00	17,000
<b>Total Designated Gifts</b>	<b>\$23,200.00</b>	<b>\$20,988.46</b>	<b>\$23,475.00</b>
<b>Facilities Rental &amp; Services</b>			
Facilities Rental	\$350.00	\$300.00	\$350.00
Good's N Stuff	\$1,000.00	\$1,895.25	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Facilities Rental &amp; Services</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$2,195.25</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>
<b>Reimbursements and Other</b>			
Initial Envelopes	\$350.00	\$308.00	\$350.00
Flowers	\$400.00	\$751.55	\$500.00
Bulletins/Herald	\$600.00	\$749.00	\$600.00
Radio Spots	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candles	\$350.00	\$460.00	\$350.00
Music and Licenses	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$275.00
Thrivent	\$2,000.00	\$1,533.00	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>Total Reimbursements Other</b>	<b>\$3,800.00</b>	<b>\$4,076.55</b>	<b>\$3,675.00</b>
<b>Total Annual Projected Revenue Budget</b>	<b>185,995.00</b>	<b>\$144,215.75</b>	<b>151,555.00</b>

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Tamaqua PA**  
**Donations Account Balances (01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019)**

Account	YTD Balance
<i><b>Giving Accounts</b></i>	
100 - Current	114,423.19
101 - Initial Envelope	308.00
102 - New Year's Day Envelope	52.00
103 - Birthday Envelope	574.00
105 - Improvement Fund	3,920.50
110 - Endowment Fund	3,438.00
116 - Oil Fund	1,050.00
121 - Vacation Bible School	278.96
124 - Sunday & Seasons/ One License	275.00
125 - Flowers	751.55
131 - Benevolence	304.00
136 - Herald/ Bulletins	749.00
138 - Use of Facility	300.00
142 - Plate offering	6,303.25
143 - Sunday School offering	707.28
147 - Joyful Noise Offering	1,346.48
148.00 - Loaves & Fishes Ministry	1,030.00
150 - Candles	460.00
151 - Ministerial Assoc./ Bacculaureate Service Offering	809.00
154 - Culinary	22,069.50
165 - Helping Hand Fund	40.00
166 - Cemetery	68.00
168 - All Saints	97.00
169 - Reformation	112.00
170 - Organ Fund	5.00
171 - Current Memorial/Honorarium	3,138.00
172 - Advent Envelope	622.00

173 - Christmas Envelope	3,641.00
174 - Thanksgiving Envelope	203.00
175 - World Hunger Fund	1,360.00
176 - Lutheran World Relief Envelope	261.00
177 - Ash Wednesday Envelope	320.00
178 - Lenten Envelopes	685.00
179 - Maundy Thursday Envelopes	812.00
180 - Good Friday Envelopes	266.00
181 - Easter Envelopes	1,563.00
182 - Ascension envelope	166.00
183 - Pentecost envelope	126.00
184 - Harvest Home	147.00
187 - Reimbursement	101.63
188 - Senior Choir Offering	297.00
191 - Thrivent Fund	1,533.00
193 - Outreach	2,365.75
198 - Boyers Cards	519.01
199 - Amazon Prime	57.98
200 - Redner's Receipts	129.03
205 - CC Member Gifts/ Memorials	17,565.64
206 - CC Member Pledges	52,908.60
207 - CC Non-member Gifts/ Memorials	5,170.00
213 - CC Loan from Endowment	175,000.00
219 - Endowment Interest Payment	841.66
220 - Endowment Principal Payment	10,000.00
222 - Zion Diaper Fund Donation	1,570.00
225 - Seminarian Fund	650.00
227 - Tree of Remembrance Contributions	1,000.00

<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$442,491.01</b>
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**Giving Step Report: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019**

Thursday, January 23, 2020

<b>Giving Range</b>		<b>Total Given</b>
<b>\$0.00 - \$0.00</b>	Count: 118	\$0.00
<b>\$0.01 - \$52.00</b>	Count: 52	\$1,153.50
<b>\$52.01 - \$104.00</b>	Count: 17	\$1,195.00
<b>\$104.01 - \$156.00</b>	Count: 15	\$1,948.00
<b>\$156.01 - \$208.00</b>	Count: 6	\$1,066.00
<b>\$208.01 - \$260.00</b>	Count: 7	\$1,768.00
<b>\$260.01 - \$312.00</b>	Count: 3	\$870.00
<b>\$312.01 - \$364.00</b>	Count: 6	\$2,066.00
<b>\$364.01 - \$416.00</b>	Count: 7	\$2,684.00
<b>\$416.01 - \$468.00</b>	Count: 4	\$1,728.00
<b>\$468.01 - \$520.00</b>	Count: 6	\$2,969.00
<b>\$520.01 - \$780.00</b>	Count: 16	\$10,490.00
<b>\$780.01 - \$1,040.00</b>	Count: 11	\$10,054.00
<b>\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00</b>	Count: 2	\$2,493.00
<b>\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00</b>	Count: 13	\$18,820.00
<b>\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00</b>	Count: 10	\$17,838.00
<b>\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00</b>	Count: 6	\$13,555.00
<b>\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00</b>	Count: 4	\$11,672.00
<b>\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00</b>	Count: 4	\$13,379.60
<b>\$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00</b>	Count: 4	\$15,858.00
<b>\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00</b>	Count: 1	\$4,835.00
<b>\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00</b>	Count: 1	\$5,300.00
<b>&gt; \$6,240.01</b>	Count: 2	\$20,549.84

# ***OUTREACH 2019***

## **OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT**

Several years ago when Zion's by-laws were revised, several ministries were brought together under the same umbrella because their missions shared some similarities. Hence, 'Outreach' has characteristics of congregational care, community outreach and evangelism. Ministries under the Outreach umbrella include the blanket ministry, Care Corps, Christmas and July food baskets, Culinary, the cradle roll, the diaper pantry and flower ministries, the Goods 'N Stuff rummage sale, Joyful Noise, the Prayer Chain, the prayer shawl ministry and World/community mission.

## **2019 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 200 served at New Year's Day dinner
- Over \$1,400 collected for Joyful Noise distribution
- Souper Sunday results in giving food items to families with needs and Primitive Methodist's food bank which serves over 110 families each month
- Prayer Chain continues to handle numerous requests
- In addition to its numerous socials and food sales, Culinary hosts a free New Year's Day pork and sauerkraut dinner and provides light lunches for fellowship time following the fourth Saturday service of each month except November and December.
- Culinary served a turkey dinner following the well-attended "Christmas in July" Saturday service
- Zion had a presence at both the downtown Summerfest and fall Heritage Day as members sold pretzels and handed out fliers promoting church events
- Trunk or Treat and A Charlie Brown Christmas events entertained and provided fellowship to many area families
- We continue our support of KIVA, a world-wide outreach that helps people by lending money to help start-up businesses buy goods for resale, plant plants for food, purchase fishing equipment and educational items for teaching, and provide water for communities, among other activities. Through KIVA, we lend money and get paid back paying so we can lend the money again. We lend \$ 25 each time. Along with other lenders, we become a unit of funding.
- Our July picnic basket project served 20 families
- Volunteers conducted two successful rummage sales in the spring and fall
- Zion hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Tamaqua Advent Breakfast with 192 tickets sold
- Christmas cards with a Christmas Eve service schedule sent to all Zion members

## **DIAPER DEPOT PANTRY**

For several years, Zion has received diapers from the Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank without a formal distribution program in place. This year we initiated Diaper Depot, a diaper distribution pantry program to meet an important health need in our community. Tamaqua Area School District families can request diapers once a month. In addition to diapers, a container of baby wipes are given with each request. We started with 19 requests in October and as of January, requests are coming from 50 families. Several Zion members have embraced the pantry as their ministry. They assemble requests the evening before distribution. A few handle the distribution the next morning. Donations of diapers and money are welcome.

## **JOYFUL NOISE - 2018 total \$1,453.52**

January - ELCA Good Works honeybees program - \$145  
February - ELCA Good Works water filter program - \$103  
March - ACS Telethon - \$153  
April - Tamaqua Hunger Walk \$124  
May - Mothers Against Drunk Driving - \$102

June – Zion July 4<sup>th</sup> food basket project - \$104.53  
July – Lutheran Church Charities Kare 9 Military Ministry for Veterans - \$123.64  
August – Tamaqua Library - \$106.15  
September – Philadelphia Diaper Bank - \$113 – Gave check for \$500  
October – Zion Christmas food basket - \$86.20  
November – Zion Christmas food basket - \$115.50  
December – Zion Helping Hand Fund - \$177.50

### **HELPING HAND DAY**

Instead of having our congregational picnic on the second Sunday of September, we moved the picnic date so that Zion could participate in the ELCA's "Helping Hands Day" the second Sunday of September where members of congregation conduct a community service project. The initial project was to freshen the landscaping around the Tamaqua Public Library building and hold a benefit concert for the library. Both had to be postponed until this spring. We suggest that Church Council establish a "Helping Hand Day" task force to plan Zion's participation with congregational input and support well in advance of September.

### **LIVE STREAMING**

We initiated the live streaming of our worship services Dec. 17, 2017 using the Boxcast service. In March 2018, we began sharing our Boxcast streaming on Facebook. Both Boxcast and Facebook archive our videos for a certain length of time. While Facebook views are greater, it is the Boxcast service which allows us to share on Facebook.

Website (Boxcast) views: Dec. 17, 2017 – Dec. 31, 2018

84 webcasts

1,272 views

293 unique viewers mainly from Pa., but also viewers from Texas, Maryland, Mass., New York, D.C., Rhode Island, Oregon, Florida and 20 views from outside the USA.

Top website views

Christmas Concert – 158 views

Sunday, Feb. 18 – 88 views

Sunday, Dec. 16 – 52 views

Pastor's installation – 40 views

Saturday, Feb. 17 – 39 views

Facebook views - March 28, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018

Saturday services: 1,568 views

Sunday services: 1,592 views

Total views: 3,160 views

Top Facebook views

Baccalaureate service – 1,600+ views

Advent Breakfast – 521 views

Palm Sunday (opening procession only) – 486 views

Pastor White's installation – 201 views

Christmas Concert 195 views

All Saints Sunday – 140 views

4 p.m. Christmas Eve service - 101

### **WWW.ZIONTAMAQUA.COM/SOCIAL MEDIA**

A new member Zion recently said that he decided to come to Zion after visiting several Tamaqua church websites. Our website was designed for that purpose but it also provides information for Zion members. We use Facebook, too, to reach both members and prospects. Facebook and other forms of social media hold great promise for expanding Zion's ministry in the community.

Zion website report – As of Jan. 6 (from website statistics)

Last 365 days – 15,908 different visitors have made 42,720 visits  
Since site's initiation – 37,062 different visitors have made 119,489 visits

Top pages:

- 1 Home
- 2 About Zion
- 3 Live stream page
- 4 Bulletins/newsletters
- 5 Get connected
- 6 Calendar
- 7 Ministries
- 8 New here?
- 9 Photo galleries
- 10 Zion news

## **THRIFT STORE**

We are continuing a discussion about opening a Zion Thrift Store either in the church or at a downtown location as an alternative (or in addition) to our twice-a-year rummage sale using the Thrift Store at Trinity Lutheran in Lehighton as a model. Several good reasons come to mind. (1) It is a need in this community. (2) It is an excellent way for Zion to both serve the community and be more visible in the community. (3) It can provide a ministry opportunity for Zion members who current do not have one. (4) It can generate income for the Zion's Outreach efforts. (Trinity (Lutheran in Lehighton has a Thrift Store that generates \$30-40,000 a year which goes to the food pantry it also operates.) Initially, we could seek a partner willing to let us operate the store rent-free until we see if it can fly on its own. The key to this project, however, is not only the location but rather the involvement of Zion members who are not already involved in ministries.

## **THANK YOU**

We thank those Zion members who have given their time and talents through the various ministries of the congregation and have made those ministries their ministries. We encourage very member of Zion to have a personal ministry – to live their faith through offering God's love to others.

We welcome increased support from our congregation at our socials and other events. In addition to attending Zion events, members can help by distributing posters and sign-up sheets and collecting orders where they live or work. If you cannot attend a social, a contribution toward event expenses would be most helpful.

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS**

What does a healthy church look like? We hear a great deal about church size but the size of a congregation does not determine the spiritual health of that congregation.

Congregational engagement is certainly a characteristic of a healthy church. Obviously, attending worship is an important part of church membership but putting our faith into action is equally important to engagement and congregational health.

Tamaqua has many needs and Zion could address some of those needs if each member embraced a ministry. Perhaps you've heard of the 20/80 rule: Twenty percent of a group does 80 percent of the work. You'll find that true in most organization, but for Zion to have maximum impact on our community, 100 percent of our members need to be engaged.

What are some of the needs that we could address?

A year-round thrift store.

A soup kitchen operating 5 days a week

A child development program

An after-school latch key program

A summer luncheon program expanding the South Ward playground to Dutch Hill A community cancer support group

A community care giver support group  
 A community parenting support group  
 A community grief support group  
 A community marriage recovery group  
 A community divorce support group Community youth activities  
 Common Grounds worship service for recovering individuals and their families  
 Can we do all of this? Of course not, but the opportunities are there for Zion to have real impact on the community.  
 What is God calling you to do?

## **Culinary 2019**

It is only thru having the many volunteers that can make it a success by donating their time 2 or 3 days a week for each event. We also thank all who came to our events to enjoy great food and social time. Special thanks to all who make baked goods for events.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial Group for the seed money of \$250.00 for each event which is used to purchase all product needed for each event, otherwise the culinary team helps by donations.

We held 17 major events in 2019. Also many small events held by Zion's during the year. We also held an ice cream social for the Southward Fire Co. with all proceeds going the them \$1540.00 plus \$460.00 from outreach to make \$2000.00. We are looking to continue this year again with another fire company.

Contributions	\$ 22,069.50
Expenses	
Times News	\$ 1,361.60
Fire Co.	\$ 1,540.00
Food	\$ 118.67
Total	\$ 30,2023

For 2019 Culinary made \$19,000.00 to the Emergency Fund, still leaving a balance of \$10,093.17 in culinary account. We can always accept monetary donations, or help, or by making bake goods for event.

Happy New Year.

God Bless,

Ralph Derr, Culinary Team

## Care Corp Report 2019

Working at church while making pies and candy for an Easter fundraiser I began thinking about the upcoming celebration of our risen Savior. This church activity was followed by getting ready for an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth and that made me think about our shut-ins. We were doing things for the community by making them food for dinner and we helped by letting the children celebrate with the fun Easter party – but what were we doing for our senior members who were once the backbone of the church who continue to support the church but unable attend. Having been a member of Zion my entire life I knew most of the “Old Shiners” and thought I should do something, being Easter time baskets came to mind. A small group got together and we made homemade baskets and filled them with goodies and that is how Care Corp was resurrected. At this time 26 individuals were identified. Monthly visits have been made to these folks. The initial visit was a knock on their door with the treat of the Easter basket and the renewal of an old acquaintance or the start of a new friendship. What I learned soon was Bob and I looked forward to the visits and always had an extra quart of soup to share with one of the shut-ins. Over the remainder of the year we found ourselves on frequent soup runs to the shut-ins.

During “God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday” we visited 26 folks and gave each a quart of homemade soup and cookies. In addition, we visited the Tamaqua Police Department thanking them for their service and giving them goodies. We also sent seven cards to those on the list we were unable to reach.

Paul Fegley helped with Halloween by making little pumpkins which we filled with candy and gave to twenty-two folks. As November approached it was a time to be thankful and I was thankful for the shut-ins and the ability they had to restore my faith in people. Since so many of our shut-ins live alone I decided that a Thanksgiving dinner was the perfect treat. So after shopping we roasted turkeys and made homemade filling and some yummy homemade desserts. We were able to deliver seventeen turkey dinners and homemade desserts. We had special desserts for our members in nursing homes.

In December, the season of giving, we had treats of homemade cookies and candy and over the Holidays we delivered these to twenty shut-ins.

In addition to our noted shut-ins we made visits to members hospitalized. We were also able to help members with transportation to doctor appointments as well as take food to three members after being hospitalized. Sadly, I will add we attended three funerals.

What will the future hold? We will continue to do small things with great love. With prayer and help from God we can do great things!

Submitted by Gail Jones



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC-- -2019

### CHOIR, CANTORS, SPECIAL MUSIC PROVIDERS, LECTORS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

If you tally the hours of rehearsal, planning, and serving by the choir members, cantors, soloists, instrumentalists, lectors, and communion assistants given to make our liturgy at Zion as well-prepared as we can do, it would average about 20 hours of time given weekly. How can we begin to say thank-you to each of those persons for their part in that number? We are so fortunate to have the dedication of these people and their sharing of time and talents in praise of our Savior.

The choir is the foundation of the music leadership. They lead the service sections and provide a special message through the words and music of their anthems. Seeing them in the choir pews each Sunday inspires me to try my best and they encourage the congregational singing of the hymns and liturgy. I enjoy watching them at rehearsal when they don't care for a new anthem but through practice and repetition, they realize the music is worth the effort of learning it and it soon becomes one of their favorites.

If the choir is the foundation, then the cantors, lectors, communion assistants, and people who provide the special music through solos or instruments build on that foundation to enhance the worship experience at Zion. I am always amazed at the reliability of these folks. They get a schedule in the beginning of the year and they dependably serve on their Sundays. I was so pleased to have some new persons join us this year, while keeping the former high school students who help now on their breaks from college.

My thanks, also, to the young persons who sing in the Sunday School Choir. They have an enthusiasm and freshness that adds joy to our service. Watching them learn reinforces the promise that faith will live on in the next generation. They happily share their talents with us every chance they have.

The worship service at Zion is our way of learning God's Word, of giving thanks for His goodness, of sharing our concerns for ourselves and others in prayer, of glorifying God for all He has given to us, and of returning our time to God who has given us His only Son. I asked earlier how we can say thank you to those who lead our worship. Tell them thank-you---but even more so, join us. Be a volunteer to read, or sing, or share your talents. We welcome you as an integral part of leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko



# Parochial Report - 2019

## Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
5/18/19	Piper James Rhys Fritzing	Ryan Fritzing and Kyleigh Rauenzahn.
5/19/19	Maveric Don Muffley	Brook and John Muffley Jr
5/25/19	Brayleigh Mae Spires	Tamara Haspe and Brady Spires
9/22/19	Toby Eames Trinkle	Rikki Bachman-Trinkle and Kyle Trinkle
12/29/19	Adalyn Grace Valentine	Mark and Kimberly Valentine

## Marriages

Date	Names
9/22/19	Dillon Epler & Samantha Bise
9/28/19	Jimmy Valentine & Aaron Morgan

## Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
3/1/19	Member	Hubert Becker	91	3/7/19
4/13/19	Member	Linda Geiger	67	4/17/19
4/13/19	Member	Irene Hulsman	89	4/18/19
4/20/19	Member	Harold Trevorah	74	5/25/19
5/3/19	Member	Claude Turton Jr.	87	5/8/19
6/30/19	Member	Harry Snyder	89	7/5/19
8/31/19	Non-Member	Mildred Henrizty	94	9/7/19
9/26/19	Member	June K. Zehner	70	9/30/19
10/11/19	Member	Richard Dreisbach	89	10/16/19
10/15/19	Member	Dr. H. Bruce Geiger	91	10/21/19
12/10/19	Member	John "Jack" Schock	84	12/16/19

## Confirmations

Date	Name
6/9/19	Brayden Robert Dombrosky
	Kelly Ann Ehrig
	McKenna Rose Ehrig
	Kailey Rose Richards
	Hailey Morgan Williams

## First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/24/19	Aubry Lynn Beers
	Quinn Michael Coleman



## Transfer In

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>
8/1/19	Nancy Thompson	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	Robert, Brenda & Derek Hill	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	Ronald Schock	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	Susan Kristoff	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	John Schock	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	Geraldine Rossochacy	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
8/1/19	David Schock	Church Closing Advent Lutheran Church, Tuscarora
9/1/19	Abby Pecha	Church Closing Zion Lutheran Church, Nesquehoning
9/1/19	Richard Pecha	Church Closing Zion Lutheran Church, Nesquehoning

## Affirmation of Faith

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Formerly</b>
9/15/19	Martin, Theresa and Jacob Baddick	St. Jerome, Tamaqua
9/15/19	Brian, Susan, Julia, and Kevin Lawfer	Church Closing/ Diamond United Methodist, Hazleton
9/15/19	Ryan, Thaddeus, & Axel Matalavage	
9/15/19	Sally Alonge	

## Reinstatement (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	
2/25/19	Carol Laukaitis	
8/20/19	Karen Herb	

## Withdrawn (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	
2/25/19	Eileen Kelkis	Requested by individual
4/3/19	Barbara Melnick	Requested by individual
12/28/19	Helen Fernandez	Requested by individual
12/28/19	Luis Fernandez	Requested by individual

## 2019 Capital Campaign Committee Annual Report

December 18, 2019

Zion's Capital Campaign (CC) Committee currently consists of eight members: Pastor Cindy, Sandy Mehalko, George Taylor, Bob and Gail Jones, Frank Rudy and Darlene and Dave Fetterman. The committee, which generally meets monthly, began its works in April, 2017. The committee welcomes new members. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is asked to contact Dave. Committee members may include individuals who are not members of Zion.

Zion hired Jim Edwards, Consultant, Kirby-Smith, in November, 2018 & his first meeting with Zion's CC Committee was on 10/30/18. Jim outlined a plan for conducting Zion's Capital Campaign over the first six months of 2019. He provided an overview of the work required & timeline for completion of the committee's chairperson & consultant's role/responsibilities for the execution of the campaign. Melody provided Jim with specific financial reports of Zion's active members for analysis/review by the CC committee. Sandy offered to help Ann Marie manage financial data for the campaign.

Four Zion members were asked if they would be interested in presenting two Lay Witness Pulpit Talks. The members agreed to talk about the meaning of being a member of Zion Church. The four members were: Sandy Mehalko, Ernie Henritz, Deb Davies & Marlin Tirpak. The talks were delivered during worship services on the weekend of March 3 & the second talk during the March 10 weekend (Saturday & Sunday services).

Jim provided the campaign with a series of fundraising-related announcements & a calendar for printing in the weekly church bulletin & Herald. Information was managed by Melody. Jim provided samples of several forms & documents that were used throughout the campaign, e.g., prayers, reception letter invitations, etc. He also offered George examples of communications for posting on Zion's website.

### Major Donor-Gift Meetings:

- Potential donors were identified & follow-up meetings were completed.
- Jim sent Dave personalized donor packets & he distributed them to the committee members conducting personalized meetings or mailed them directly to the donors. The packet included a letter requesting the donor consider reducing their pledge commitment from 10 to 5 years.

Leadership Gift-Giver receptions were held for 1/12 & 1/13/19 & facilitated by Dave.

- Mailings & follow-up phone contacts occurred with each leader invited to the receptions.
- Leaders were provided a packet of campaign-related information at the receptions.
- Tracking of leaders confirming their plan to attend a reception was managed Melody
- Dave proposed the creation of a group of Zion volunteers, called the Solicitation Task Force (STF), to help the committee conduct follow-up meetings with Leaders unable to attend the reception. Jim offered to provide training to volunteers conducting follow-up.
- Follow-up phone contacts occurred with each leader unable to attend the reception.

Pastor Cindy presented a sermon promoting the campaign on Vision Sunday, 2/24/19.

Commitment Weekend was held the weekend of 3/24 & 3/25. Zion members that had not made a pledge to the campaign were asked to consider making a pledge or giving a gift to the campaign.

The following contributions to the Capital Campaign were made during Commitment Weekend based on a total of 62 responses (completed forms returned); this is what Zion can expect to receive from its members over the next 5-year period.

- 19 new pledges for \$42,150.00
- 17 members increased their pledge amounts by \$72,450.00
- Sunday School members collected & presented \$184.10 in dimes (Sunday School members agreed to continue to collect dimes)
- 22 Zion members who said that they would continue with their previous commitment (no increase)
- 4 members said they were not able to contribute at this time

Jim prepared a letter and mailed it to all church members that did not previously make a pledge, give a gift or have the opportunity to make a contribution to the campaign during Commitment Weekend. The letter was sent to 179 households on March 26, 2019.

Zion celebrated the completion of this phase of the Capital Campaign on Thanksgiving Weekend, April 28, 2019 by holding a Pot Luck Dinner.

In June, June Seeds, a long-time church member that moved to the Harrisburg area many years ago, gave a one-time gift of \$10,000.00 to the campaign.

Since the beginning of the Capital Campaign, the following are the number of new leaves engraved each year and placed on the Giving Tree. In addition, it holds an engraved plaque honoring the Zion family that purchased the Giving Tree and one engraved plaque is placed at the end of a pew in honor of Pastor Cindy.

- 2017: 30
- 2018: 23
- 2019: 12

Darlene continues to send Thank You letters to Zion members and Sandy sends letters to non-members acknowledging pledges and gifts of \$ 1,000.00 or more for five, or ten year pledge commitments. Donors are reminded their donations are tax deductible.

On 9/20, Dave spoke with Jim Edwards (probably for the last time) to discuss his recommendations for the future of Zion's CC. Zion's agreement with Kirby Smith expired 11/30/19. Below is a summary of Jim's recommendations:

- Provide Zion's parishioners & Church Council quarterly & annual statements of campaign pledge contributions & gifts
- Periodically present campaign status updates to the congregation & regularly express appreciation for their commitment to restoring the church's exterior
- Continue to promote the campaign on Zion's website & Facebook pages
- Ensure administrative staff (Melody, Ann Marie & Dave G.) is kept updated on campaign-related activities so they can answer basic questions for new & long-term church members
- Prepare & present annual campaign reports at annual congregational meetings
- Recommend Church Council consider conducting annual or bi-annual quasi-social events for new church members with leaders/ reps of Church Council & Zion's various standing committees (incl. Capital Campaign). Leaders/ reps would be expected to offer remarks on their respective committee's goals, activities, etc. & how new members can become involved in the church's mission.

\*For this year and as of 12/11/19, the Capital Campaign Committee has received from Zion members and non-members \$70,268.99 in gifts and pledge commitments. The contributions have begun to pay-off expenses incurred for the completion of Phase II of the restoration of the church's exterior, including deGruchy and Romano construction costs totaling \$226,184.45 and the balance of Kirby-Smith consulting fees (\$7,495.00). The committee has an outstanding balance of \$165,000.00 on its loan from the Endowment Fund. When the loan is paid-off, Zion we will be able to plan Phase III of its exterior restoration project. Zion has raised approximately \$200,000.00 towards the restoration of the church's exterior since April, 2017.

\* Most recent financial information available at the time of writing this report.

Respectfully,

Dave Fetterman, Chair

### A Look at our Attendance

YEAR	SUNDAYS	SATURDAYS	TOTAL	EASTER	CHRISTMAS	CANCELLATION
2007	6,761		6,761	341	388	1
2008	6,873		6,873*	319	348	1
2009	6,287		6,287	315	419	1
2010	5,996		5,996**282	372	0	
2011	5,655		5,655	221	347	1
2012	5,592		5,592	205	337	0
2013	4,539	656	5,195***	209	253	4 (Sat & Sun)
2014	4,353	1,596	5,948****	172	321	6 (Sat & Sun)
2015	3,992	1,965	5,957	178	359	4 (Sat & Sun)
2016	4,374	1,713	6,087*****	201	309	5 (Sat & Sun)
2017	4,107	1,842	5,949	13/162	197/116 (313)	2 (Sat)
2018	4,042	2,070*****	6,283	11/178	192/114/53 (359)	None
2019	4,262	1,683	5,945	7/156	201/85/17 (303)	

\*Pastor Ernst installed June 22, 2008

\*\*Pastor Ernst's last Sunday July 11; Pastor Kistler's first Sunday, Sept. 5; Bishop's visit, Oct. 17

\*\*\* Pastor Kistler's last service, Jan. 27; Saturday service began July 6

\*\*\*\*Pastor Goodwin begins

\*\*\*\*\*Pastor Goodwin leaves; Vicar White begins

\*\*\*\*\* Does not include Aug. 25 picnic (76) or Dec. 15 concert (95)

#### MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 2019

Baptized members – 741

Confirmed members – 388

**Christian Education Department**  
**Michael Haspe – Christian Education Superintendent**  
**Annual Report 2019**

In August I, was approved by the Congregational Council to serve as the Christian Education Superintendent. Please find my first annual report below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

**Classrooms:** As you may know over the past 10 years the classrooms on the third floor had begun to fill up with storage of items. In collaboration with the property committee a central storage room was selected. All classrooms were unloaded of clutter, and set back up for use. Having these rooms available for immediate use allows us to continue growing our education and outreach ministries in the church. The Youth are our future!

**Sunday School:** Total Enrollment: 15

Average Attendance: 9-10 Children per week

Teachers: Michael Haspe, Mary Ruth Taylor, Tiffany Warden, Kayla Zamudio, and Kaleigh Richards

Time: 10:15am- 11:15am Sunday

Attendance at Zion's Sunday School is growing. In order to meet our growth a new Sunday School curriculum was selected. Students have been learning from the Whirl Lectionary Sunday School Program. This fun program is designed to follow the Common Lectionary. The program is designed to be presented in a group, or individual setting. The lesson begins with kids worship songs. We then review the church season, and liturgical colors. The daily lesson is presented using the video clips featuring the "Whirl Kids". Following the video the children have a discussion about the clip. The Bible Story follows and a class discussion is held to reinforce the daily lesson. The offering is collected, and we either recite or sing the Lord's Prayer, and close with a song. An activity such as a coloring sheet, or a craft also helps to reinforce the daily lesson. Pastor White has also been active by visiting class to provide a children's message.

Sandy Mehalko taught the children several songs last year so they could participate in Easter, the Ministry of Music, and the Christmas pageant. The kids love to sing with miss Sandy!

The children have continued with dime collection for the Capital Campaign.

In October special anonymous donation of \$500.00 was made to the Sunday School Program. We are very grateful! This donation helped us purchase curriculum and other materials.

A Caramel Apple Sale was held in October and raised \$45 for the Sunday School Program

**Confirmation:**

Total Enrollment: 8 (4 students to be confirmed on Pentecost 2020)

Teachers: Pastor Cindy White, & Michael Haspe

Through the fall of 2019 Confirmation students studied the layout of the Holy Bible, Martin Luther, and the Reformation of the Church. The students began practicing for the Christmas pageant "The Wonder" in October in addition to their regularly scheduled studies.

Several confirmation students assisted with the God's Work our hands potluck meal. The students took part in two outreach activities this year. They assisted Judy Brennan with Operation Christmas Child in which they assembled Samaritan gift boxes for underprivileged children in other countries. They also created Christmas Cards for the residents of the Hometown Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

**First Holy Communion:** Taught by Pastor White. 3 children received First Holy Communion in November.

**Vacation Bible School:** Deb Davies did a fantastic job with vbs. We has approximately 75 children attend ROAR!, a safari themed program. In this program children learned When life is wild, God is Good! Students made several crafts including safari hats, rain sticks, and lion pillow crafts.

**Loaves & Fishes Ministry:** A generous donation was made in 2019 from the former Advent Lutheran Church to launch this ministry for youth. This program is still being designed, and will be ready for fall term 2020.

**Instant Church Directory:** A new online church directory was identified. This directory is instantly updated by the directory administrator which currently Michael Haspe. The Directory is internet or phone app based. Members can sign up using a form in the gathering room, or by using the online form on our church website. The directory is secure and can not be accessed before a registration is added to the system.

**Cradle Roll:** The cradle roll files are in my office. I will review the materials in February 2020 and begin seeking replacements for things that may be outdated.

**Adult Education at Zion:** Jim & Jan McRoberts presented a Lenten lecture series. They also began a video lecture series entitled “Great Figures in the New Testament”. This lectures will resume in the Spring of 2020.

**Tree of Remembrance:** We have concluded the first year of the tree with success. We had 9 people assist with stars since the beginning of the project. 75 stars were on the tree this year from about 15 families. Nancy made 18 candles, 4 cardinals, and 4 doves as space fillers. Nancy Thompson is pleased with the results. Nancy is already preparing ideas for next years tree. Promotion of the tree, and signups for memorial ornaments will begin in August 2020 in hopes to continue to grow this project. The project is funded by a generous donation from the Former Advent Lutheran Church.

**Zion Crèche:** The nativity scene in our Gathering Room received some TLC. A shingled wood roof, and side panels were created by Michael Haspe, Ryan Matalavage, and Colin Krieg. Judy Brennan, and Beth Marcavage assisted with the elevation coverings. Pastor White took the fluter to the Community Arts Center for a new flute to be made in the ceramics studio. The artist was also able to do some repairs on his hands which had evidence of prior breakage.

**Adult Education Outreach:** Services held monthly at the Hometown Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Average Attendance: 25 Residents

In addition to our monthly service which began in July, the residents received 4 Advent services, and a Christmas Eve service. Colin Krieg played his trumpet for the Christmas Eve service. We had very positive reviews from the residents and staff for our regular services, as well as the Advent/Christmas services. This is something we will definitely continue next year. The Hometown Ministry team is composed of Pastor White, Michael Haspe, Judy Brennan, & Beth Marcavage.

**Church to Church Outreach:**

We received a donation of a beautiful hand crafted altar from St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville PA. for use in our “Group Opening” Sunday School Room.

We received 150 Lutheran Books of Worship in New condition from Schwartzwald Lutheran Church in Reading. These will replace hymnals which are worn or falling apart. If memorial placards are in worn hymnals they will be put in the hymnal which replaces it.

A Paschal Candle Stand with Advent Wreath Attachment has been donated to us by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston PA. The stand with wreath attachment will be used in the Saturday worship area.

**Northeast PA Synod “We Love...”:** In October Judy Brennan and I attended “We Love...” a program presented by the synod. The program is designed to Build Safer & More Welcoming Congregations for LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, plus) Youth and Families. My goal is to continue to make our congregation a welcoming place, regardless of who walks in the door. We must love and accept all people, as God loves us. In November 2019 I was invited, and have accepted to be on the planning committee for “We Love...” event in 2020. My first meeting is at the synod office on January 29, 2020.