

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



Sunday School - 1875 Organized - 1876 Incorporated - 1899

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2022

Annual Meeting, February 12, 2023

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

- 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 – Michael Haspe - President, Brian Lawfer – Vice President, Ernie Henritzky – Secretary, Judy Brennan, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzingler, Carol Hartung, Darien Moyer, Kailey Richards, Steve Ristila, and Mary Ruth Taylor

Staff:

Melody Gensure – Parish Administrator
Dave Gensure – Treasurer
Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary
Sandra Mehalko – Parish Musician
Cindy White – Pastor

- IV. Adoption of minutes of February and December 2022 Congregational meetings.
- V. Reception of Financial Reports
Treasurer – Dave Gensure
Financial Secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty
Audit

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 2022 Summary – Michael Haspe
President’s 2023 Goals

- VIII. Old Business

- IX. New Business
Pastor’s Goals – Pastor Cindy White

- X. Adjournment and closing devotions

PARISH STAFF 2023

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

2023 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:

Name	Term	Ending	Position / Committee / Service to Church
Michael Haspe	2 nd	12/31/25	President / Christian Education/VBS Director/ Property Committee
Brian Lawfer	1 st	12/31/23	Vice President / Property Committee / VBS
Ernie Henritzky	2 nd	12/31/24	Secretary / Mutual Ministry / Cleaning Angels / VBS
Judy Brennan	1 st	12/31/24	Member / Blessings Thrift / Outreach / VBS / Counting
Arlene Derr	1 st	12/31/23	Member / Culinary / People's Pantry / Outreach
Glen Fritzingler	2 nd	12/31/25	Member / Culinary / Outreach / Usher
Carol Hartung	1 st	12/31/25	Member / Choir / Culinary / Blessings Thrift / Altar Guild
Darien Moyer	1 st	12/31/25	Member / Youth Advocate
Kailey Richards	1 st	12/31/25	Member / Acolyte
Steve Ristila	1 st	12/31/24	Member / Finance / Counting Team
Mary Ruth Taylor	2 nd	12/31/25	Member / Culinary / Outreach / Mutual Ministry / Choir / Sunday School

2023 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CONTACTS:

Altar Guild	Sandy Graham	570-449-1092
Acolyte Director	Art Connelly	570-668-5370
Blessings Thrift Sale	Judy Brennan	idy Matteo@yahoo.com
Capital Campaign	(VACANT)	
Catechetical/First Holy Communion	Pastor Cindy White	Loupastor4@gmail.com
Christian Education Director	Michael Haspe	zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com
Congregational Life	Deb Davies	debdavies@yahoo.com
Culinary	Glenn Fritzingler	Frit5157@ptd.net
Endowment	Walter Weston	gutww@verizon.net
Finance	Bob Jones	rjones4621@aol.com
Generosity	George Taylor	gtay200@verizon.net
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Cindy White	loupastor4@gmail.com
Outreach	George Taylor	gtay200@verizon.net
Parish Nurse	Melissa D'Alonzo	blondemouse_18661@yahoo.com
Property	Michael Haspe (Interim)	zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Sandy Mehalko	joesan@ptd.net
Vacation Bible School	Michael Haspe	zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

President Chris Henritzky called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with 41 members in attendance.

Pastor Cindy White opened with a prayer.

Welcome and Introduction of Church Council and Staff: Chris Henritzky-President, Michael Haspe-Vice President, Tiffany Warden-Secretary, Judy Brennan, Sam Caley, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Ernie Henritzky, Brian Lawfer, Steve Ristila, and Mary Ruth Taylor

Staff:

Melody Gensure – Parish Administrator

Dave Gensure – Treasurer

Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary

Sandra Mehalko – Parish Musician

Cindy White – Pastor

Secretary's Report: The minutes for the February and December 2021 Congregational meetings were approved on the motion of Dave Fetterman, seconded by Mary Ruth Taylor.

Reception of Financial Reports

Treasurer – Dave Gensure

Financial Secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty

Audit

All financial reports were reviewed and accepted on the motion of Rochelle Evanousky, seconded by Sandy Mehalko.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Chairperson for this committee was not present for meeting. Congregation members present reviewed submitted 2021 and Council President, Chris Henritzky, fielded questions/concerns to the best of his knowledge. Covid and multiple issues with the church building took place in 2021 ending the year with a deficit of \$3,928.94. Wagner Estate proceeds carried from 2020 significantly helped throughout the year creating less of a deficit than we originally would have had without it.

Endowment: Walter Weston, serving as Endowment Coordinator for 22 years, provided the details of his report for 2021. The included income for the Endowment fund this year totaled \$39,631 which was made up of church envelopes, interest from the Capital Campaign loan, Mission Investment Fund, and investment returns from Oppenheimer. He, again, added the importance of Bequests as this makes up 68.1% of what we currently have in this fund.

Capital Campaign: Dave Fetterman, Chairman for this committee since its formation in 2017, spoke of the details of the Capital Campaign. Since the start of the campaign, \$338,850 has been raised as a result of pledges, memorials, and gifts. Without the support of our congregation, non-members, and the countless people helping with this campaign, none of this would have been possible. This has been quite an accomplishment to say the very least. Also, as of February 3, an additional \$3,700 was paid back to the outstanding balance leaving a current balance of \$42,300. This balance is anticipated to be fully paid by the end of 2022 if giving continues at its current pace.

Property: Mark Valentine discussed innumerable projects completed throughout the year and needs for the church in the future. Some of the major projects tackled in 2021 were the Upper Mauch Chuck Street roof repair, Sanctuary/Gathering room lighting update, kitchen fire suppression system update, unexpected boiler repair/update, and the Greenwood Street roof repair. The lighting update alone was a major undertaking by Mark and his team. This update was started in 2020 and

finalized in April 2021 except for some fine tuning. It is estimated he spent 100+ hours completing the project with an additional 100+ hours put in from the team while saving the church \$10,000+ in labor/supply costs. Looking ahead, the bell tower and window are anticipated to be the next Capital Campaign project. Also on the wish list would be to add better ventilation in the sanctuary, carpentry work in the closet, and updating the lighting in the vestibule. In regards to the cemetery, Ron and Rick have expressed retirement and actively looking for help. A cemetery secretary is also needed at this time.

Outreach: George Taylor expressed his sincere gratitude for the plethora of ministries our church offers to not only support our congregation, but our community. He extended a “thank you” to all those that have helped on an ongoing basis to continue to make these ministries a success. With more than 25 established ministries, there is always an opportunity when someone chooses to become involved. Among these include Diaper Depot, formed in 2018, which has continued to grow year after year and the number of shoppers at the Blessing Thrift Shop also continues to grow. Also, a major asset to our church, the Culinary team, has rallied from the past year of many cancelled events because of Covid and were able to hold 10+ events in 2021 raising approximately \$9,000.

Altar Guild: During the past year, there were six members who helped to prepare the altar for worship. New members are always welcome and encouraged to contact Sandy Graham if interested.

Christian Education: Michael Haspe discussed the areas of Christian Education for the past year. While the beginning of the year continued to present challenges as a result of Covid, the sense of normalcy began to come back as the year went on. Sunday School had a total enrollment of 18 children with in person instruction resuming with the new school year in September. Following a 45-minute class time, the children are permitted to play in the kids’ fellowship room downstairs refreshed on God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday by Michael and the Lawfer family. Confirmation had a new enrollment total of 2 students with 4 students confirmed on May 23 at the Pentecost 2021 service. VBS returned to in person with a total of 75 children. The curriculum followed for this year was “Discovery on Adventure Island” and left a positive impact on the children and volunteers alike. Adult Education has not resumed this year, but hopeful to begin again in 2022.

Worship and Music: Sandy Mehalko extended her blessings of this past year for the gift of the return of singing and worshipping together. The Senior Choir also returned to their regular schedule. Also mentioned was the introduction of a new liturgy beginning the week following this meeting. The process will be gradual, with a new piece added to the service each week. Sandy will “practice” with the congregation prior to the service until all elements have been added. The existing liturgy, the green hymnal, has been used since 1978.

All committee reports were reviewed and accepted on the motion of Darlene Fetterman, seconded by Mark Valentine.

VII. State of the Congregation

The Attendance report and Giving Step Report were reviewed and discussed.

President’s 2021 Summary: Chris Henritz began by expressing his gratitude again for having the opportunity to serve as Congregational Church Council President. He continued by extending his thankfulness with the trust of the congregation throughout the year as many difficult decisions needed to be made regarding the maintenance of the building. One of these major decisions was that of the furnace being rebuilt. While this was not anticipated and budgeted for, we are thankful to have the money in our Endowment Fund that has helped pay for these costly projects.

President’s 2022 Goals: Through faith, the focus of 2022 will to prayerfully find a way to increase giving. Before continuing, Chris wanted to openly thank those that continue to give. While, he stated, this is a very difficult topic, it is one that is necessary and crucial to maintain the church and its foundation.

VIII. Old Business

On the motion of Mary Ruth Taylor, seconded by Monica Akins, Ernie Henritzky was accepted to be an additional member of Church Council. Motion passed.

IX. New Business

Pastor's Goals: Pastor Cindy White commented on the challenges faced by the church and the congregation the past two years as a result of Covid. As things began to have a more positive outlook throughout the year, she expressed 2 of the 4 2021 goals have been reached and continue to be worked on. It was also significant to note that Synod had requested she be Dillion Epler's supervisor through his internship at Saint John's. She noted that this will not interfere with anything that she is called to do at Zion. Dillion will complete his internship May 2023. She then went on to discuss her 2022 goals including creating a new mission statement and continuing with the Stewardship plan amongst others.

X. Adjournment and closing devotions

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Monica Akins, seconded by Laura Fulmer and closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Warden, Council Secretary

ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

President Michael Haspe called the meeting to order, after it was established that we met our quorum of 30, with 31 members in attendance.

Pastor Cindy White opened the meeting with a prayer.

The names nominated for Council positions were: Kailey Richards and Darien Moyer, youth advocate

A motion to approve the names presented was made by Art Connely, seconded by Glenn Fritzinger. The names/nominees were approved unanimously.

President Michael Haspe presented a brief overview of the 2023 budget and asked for any questions/concerns from those present.

Ron Dietrich made a motion to the approve the budget, seconded by Ernie Henritzky. The 2023 budget was unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Darlene Fetterman, seconded by Mary Ruth Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Warden,
Council Secretary

Pastor's Annual Report for 2022

My Goals for 2021 were as follows:

1. Create a new mission statement: This was completed and approved by council in October of 2021. There are also four vision statements. Please see the last page of your packet
2. Work toward a new pictorial book. This was put on hold do to considerable concern with remaining virus issues.
3. Continue with Stewardship plan. Sam Caley, Mary Ruth Taylor and I met and created a letter and included church activities to send to all members. People seemed to really like this. We also spoke with members of the congregation to reestablish contact and see how members were doing.
4. Ensure we have a well-established Miller Keystone presence here at Zion: This was completed, and we are waiting to hear when/if they would like to use our downstairs as a site during 2023.

I am extremely thankful for all of the prayers, hard work and positivity that I have encountered over the past year here at Zion. I believe the newly formed Generosity committee has done an incredible job reminding us about every part of the stewardship commands of our Lord. It has been very enriching to see this unfold, and I am looking forward to more from them. You will see from every one of our reports that our ministries are flourishing here. I firmly believe that if we continue to focus on welcoming all God's people into our fellowship and serving people in need, that we will be blessed financially as well. All of this being said, here are my goals for 2023.

1. Select someone to coordinate the new pictorial book.
2. Research a new outline to offer a recovery service here.
3. Start to plan a youth trip for summer of 2024 to go to Cherokee, NC.
4. Support the generosity team's plans and helping to initiate Stephen ministries.
5. Investigate the possibility of a Spanish speaking service more thoroughly.

*I am pleased to announce that with our financial assistance, our seminarian Dillon Epler will be graduating in May and will be ordained here at Zion. What a wonderful day this will be!! The date will be announced as soon as possible.

***Last but not least: we completely paid off our loan from Endowment for our first stage of improvement, thanks to our continued Capital campaign pledges. For those of us on the 10 year plan.....let's keep on giving with God's help.**

As we move forward in 2023 "Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord" Psalm 95:1

With love in Christ and prayers for all of you,

Pastor Cindy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grace & Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

I can't believe it is time for our Annual Meeting again. Sometimes I find myself wondering "where did the year go?". 2022 was another busy and successful year in ministry for our congregation, details of which will be outlined in this packet. When I speak of ministry, I'm not just referencing fancy programs, delicious meals, or fun times at Vacation Bible School. I refer to ministry as the fellowship, fun, and memories created as we serve our community, and celebrate being one body of Christ. Whether we know it or not, our ministries can change lives both here in our community, and around the world.

There is always the temptation to focus on our finances, and sometimes we lose sight of what we are really doing here. As Christians it is our duty to bring as many people to Christ as possible. Through the stories told through Generosity Campaign this past fall we learned the impact this congregation has had on our lives, and the lives of others. Each time we open our doors, go out in the community, or have a conversation with a friend, neighbor, or stranger we have an opportunity to change a life for the better in Christ's name.

In 2023 I'd like us to focus on being ONE in the body of Christ, always treating each other with dignity, respect, and grace. With this said, I felt the "hotline verse" for this summer's Vacation Bible School would be an appropriate motto for us in 2023.

"So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." (Romans 14:19)

Let's hold this verse especially close to our hearts as we move into the new year and face new challenges ahead.

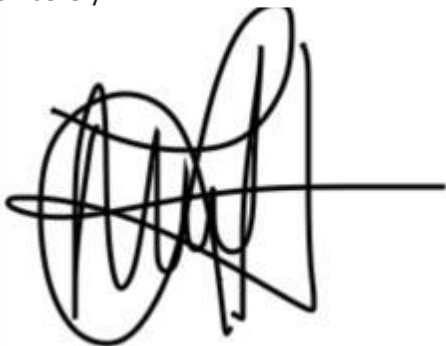
Lastly, I'd like to thank our congregation for electing me as Council President. I am truly humbled, and honored to serve God, and our congregation in this position of leadership. Your trust is something I take very seriously. I promise to continue to protect our valued traditions, while continuing to find new innovative ways to perform ministry and attract new members to our faith fellowship.

When I passed through the doors in 2018 after a long absence, I had no idea the adventure God had in store for me. I definitely didn't see myself running our education department, or in a position of leadership. It is something I thank God, Pastor Cindy White, and this congregation for seeing in me. It is because of you I have been able to reach my full potential of service to God.

In 2023 I challenge each of you is to listen to how God is calling you to service. USE YOUR TALENTS accordingly. I invite you to take the leap of faith and find where you can belong in our ministry. Through my faith and relationship with our creator, I've been led on quite an adventure. I invite you to take the plunge into your next adventure. Listen, God is calling! Take the challenge and say, "Here I am Lord!". You'll be glad you did.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Haspe", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Michael Haspe Congregational Council President

PARISH STATISTICS

	2021	2022
Baptized Membership	739	749
Confirmed Members	386	387
Members received by Baptism (Child)	7	7
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	4	1
New First Communicants	5	3
Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer (Baptized)	1	4
(Baptized/Confirmed)	1	3
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	4	2
(Baptized/Confirmed)	4	2
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	1	2
Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	1	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	6	0
(Confirmed)	6	0
Member Removed Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0
Members who were taken by Death	6	7
Non-Member Deaths	8	1
Marriages	1	1

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

Parochial Report - 2022

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
2/27/22	Evan Terry Paul	Terrence & Rachel Paul
5/8/22	Vinson Hayes Stahler	Emily & Jared Stahler
6/12/22	Nora Lynn Unger	Justin & Lindsey Unger
9/17/22	Liberty Alexandria Coleman	Patty Coleman
10/2/22	Eva Marie Edmonds	Kayla & Matt Edmonds
10/9/22	Madelyn Ell Gallagher	Lauren & Dan Gallagher
10/23/22	Owen Reed Montecalvo	Jaime & Nicholas Montecalvo

Marriages

Date	Names
6/18/22	Ashly Casler & Jonathan Lux

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
3/2/22	Non-Member	Guy R. Ulshafer	69	3/9/22 Already Removed
3/11/22	Member	Debbie L. Bachman	63	Private
4/14/22	Member	Carl L. Dreisbach	93	4/27/22
7/30/22	Member	Mahlon A. Breiner	90	8/4/22
9/14/22	Member	Velma L. Mantz	89	8/23/22
11/6/22	Member	James J. Bynon, II	51	11/28/22
11/24/22	Member	Rick Bachman	66	12/12/22
12/6/22	Member	James Batman	71	Private

Confirmations

Date	Name
6/5/22	Thomas Ryan Graham

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/20/22	Liberty Coleman
	Alexander D'Alonzo
	Peyton Faust

Transfer In

Date	Name	From
5/29/22	Justin and Lindsey Unger	
6/26/22	Cynthia Delp & Christopher Delp	

Re-Affirmation of Faith

Date	Name	Formerly
1/30/22	Terrence, Rachel, Charlotte, & Emily Paul	St. Richards, Barnesville

Reinstatement (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name
7/27/22	Annamae Surotchak
12/24/22	Kevin Linkhorst



2022 PROPERTY REPORT

Property committee: Mark Valentine (retired chair); Michael Haspe; Brian Lawfer; Ryan Matalavage; Bob Maue; George Taylor

Property/cemetery helpers: Charlie Long; Mike Miller; Bob Fisher; Bob Maue; Brian Lawfer;

Cleaning angels: Ernie and Susan Henritz; Lori Krell (retired); Trudy Maue and Beth Lattanzi;

Thanks to Ron Dietrich for his years of service as a cemetery caretaker. We also note the years of service given to the cemetery by Rick Bachman.

With much gratitude, we acknowledge the years of leadership Mark Valentine has provided the property committee.

JANUARY

- Cemetery fence repair update – Upper fence repair work completed; lower work yet to be done but will be paid for by Tamaqua Borough. Its workers did the damage.
- Greenwood roof repair: Roman still has about 10 days of work on roof area above Gebert Chapel and the area above the organ pipes. He may be able to do the work in the next few days depending on the weather. Roman reinstalled the snow anchors on that side of the church which had been incorrectly installed. He also found issues with the gutter drains which he hopes he has resolved.
- Security: Cameras have in installed in various location in the church
- Girls Scouts update: Mark Valentine reports that the scouts have left the building. Scout leader came in and remove their items. They will be meeting at the Elks Club.

FEBRUARY

- Sanctuary lighting/ethernet connectors – work completed Jan. 18-19; McCullion bill for \$1,992 approved for payment
- Kitchen update/freezers-Large freezer repaired and coils of large frig cleaned; bill for \$655 could be split between Culinary and Blessings; A smaller freezer has been donated; not frost-free; will have to be watched for ice build-up.
- Ventilation- Mark looked at installing louvers on right wall of sanctuary to help cool the area in summer.
- Vestibule lighting-Mark has contacted All Phase about possible replacement fixtures; perhaps wall fixtures

MARCH

- Greenwood roof repair- Roman finished major work March 4. A few minor issues to address. Invoices totaling \$12,300 approved for payment.
- Furnace-Mark has been working with Reigel to determine why furnace at time runs more than necessary; Mark found two stuck valves. The boiler was inspected by someone from the Pa. Dept. of labor and Industry.
- George Taylor reported that a new used video switcher was purchased for \$216 to replace our original unit we've used for four year has developed some issue. George also reports that additional wireless mics have been purchased for use downstairs during VBS. The cost (\$104) will be taken from the VBS fund.

APRIL

- Mark will talk with Rick Bachman to see if we can obtain a copy of the newest cemetery map.
- Inspections-28 fire extinguishers in the building are due for hydrostatic testing; J&K of Kingston will do the work
- In-line water heater arrive for the Gathering Room all-gender bathroom but was the wrong model.

MAY

- Mark reviewed the check-in sheets at the cemetery shed so that people know what has been done and what needs to be done.
- Kitchen update-conduit installed-circuit breakers should be here in July
- Fire extinguisher inspection-testing will be done this month - \$2,000 cost
- Food pantry/thrift store shelving- installed and looks good

JUNE

- Lower lift- Repair person came June 8. Lift is now working. Waiting for bill.

JULY

- Cemetery caretaker-Existing copies of job description distributed. A few changes made. Will review at future meeting.
- Personnel/Cemetery secretary needed
- Map -Mark got map duplicated at Staples. Map needs to be updated especially in the newer area.
- Skip Anderson did dome weeding; Andy Dietrich will do trimming
- The bell frame needs painted-Would have to be scraped, primed and painted.

AUGUST

- Cemetery fence repair update – Mark is contacting Rob Jones at Borough Hall to explore options for repairing the lower fence for which the which the borough is responsible . The upper fence was damaged by a trucker. His company paid for the repairs.
- Property recommends that discussions begin as soon as possible about the next phase of the exterior project. Will there be enough money to fund the project? How much come is yet to in through the 5- and 10-year capital campaign pledges?

SEPTEMBER

- Mark has contacted DeGruchy to provide new estimates for remaining projects. Some projects may be split into two projects to make them more financially manageable.

OCTOBER

- Reviewed deGruchy's updated bids – Mark recommends the tower project by done first.
 - Bell tower - \$257,000
 - Gable and window next to bell tower: \$148,000
 - Bell tower and gable area done together: \$388,000
 - Upper Mauch Chunk Street (above chime tower): \$177,000
- Cleaning angels: Lori Krell is “retiring” at the end of the year. This leaves us with two teams: Ernie and Susan Henritz and Trudy Maue and Beth Lattanzi
- Mark is considering resigning as chair of property. He is concerned with the amount of time taken away from other things he needs and wants to do.

NOVEMBER

- Other-Mark was contacted by a monument company out of Breingsville regarding the placement of markers on a certain lot. The lot number given does not match up with cemetery records. Mark said that he and Rick Bachman will meet to review records. (Note: Rick passed away for a meeting could take place.)
- George explained that he reviewed lists of 10-year and 5-year pledges to try to get some idea of how much funding might be expected. Two issues surfaced. First, there are people on both lists with pledges on both lists. We need to determine which pledge is actually a working pledge. Second, people working on the 10-year pledge should be at least half-way to their commitment amount. Some are behind and, therefore, their pledges amount is questionable. People doing the 5-year pledge ought to be nearly done but again some are behind. Their pledge amounts are, therefore, questionable.
- Kitchen update- The fire suppression system is complete and activated.
- Water heater-Received and installed
- Boiler start-up-Has been running for several weeks. Riegel assisted in start-up with various maintenance details. Bill: \$400.
- Organ repairs have been completed
- Mark has decided to step down as property chair effective Jan. 1, 2023. He said he will continue his sexton duties.

DECEMBER

- Cemetery – Two burials took place in early December
- DeGruchy called Mark recently to ask if any decisions has been made regarding moking forward with any of the project.
- Kitchen update-Fire suppression systemis complete and operational
- In line water heater-Installed and operational. Bill- Inline water heater-Riegel-\$353-approved payment
- Use of facilities policy needs to be updated: \$100 wedding; \$15/hour sexton fee

ENDOWMENT FUND 2022 REPORT



Looking back to the 70's our finance committee bought CD's and invested in the Lutheran Brotherhood funds. We had a saving balance of \$103,773 at the end of 1999.

During 2000, after ZION'S inherited money from two-member family bequests, pastor asked me to form a committee and start an ENDOWMENT Fund. I thank all my committee members and all who have supported and contributed to this fund. Also, Bequests helped to fund 68 % of the contributions.

Our Fund annually returns 4 ½ % of its value to the church budget including extra support in 2009 to pay off a bank loan of \$92,172 for roof and furnace replacement. Past two years we add \$42,000 to help pay for emergency roof repairs. Since the start the Fund has returned \$479,561 back to Zion's.

Also, we are glad that Fund was able to finance loans for the exterior restoration project with an interest rate at 2%.

Endowment value at the end of 2022 was \$422,094

Endowment investment includes 36% fixed bank notes and cd's with 64% invested in single stocks—managed with MCT TRUST

Now for the bad news----our investments lost 12.7% last year it appears that the stock market dropped between 21% to 25% in 2022. Hoping for better returns for 2023?

If you have any questions contact Walter Weston Endowment coordinator. The Endowment Fund committee includes Rochelle Evanousky, Bob Jones, Steve Ristila and Matt Warden.

We each have the opportunity
to create an enduring legacy of
our commitment to our church
and its ministries

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Weston
Endowment Coordinator

Zion Finance Committee Report 2022

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

The Church was still dealing with the aftermath of Covid and multiple issues with the building. We ended the year with a budget deficit of \$8,385.17.

Budget Contributions 2022

\$214,928.74

Budget Expenses 2022

\$223,313.61

Budget BEHIND \$8,385.17

Income 2022

\$293,709.64

Expenses 2022

\$291,860.15

Ahead \$1,849.49

Income 2022 with Campaign Removed

\$238,309.73

Expenses 2022 with Capital Campaign Removed

\$245,395.01

Behind \$7,085.49

Included in Income:

Once again income was not sufficient to cover expenses and a total of \$54,000 was withdrawn from the Endowment Fund to cover the shortfall. The Committee sees a dangerous trend that money to support the Church is now coming out of Endowment and not from giving and/or gifts. Finance thanks Endowment Committee for managing the Church's assets.

Culinary Team. A total of \$12,945 was raised by Culinary activities. We thank the Culinary for all their dedication and hard work.

Thrift Store. The hard working group behind this ministry were able to raise \$6,912.66. Thank you for your efforts!

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 in the past had Action Teams 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 \$596 last year. We thank all of our Thrivent members for what they have done to help the Church throughout the past year.

Boyer’s and Redner’s cards. The Church received \$537.30 from Boyers, and \$217.83 from Redners. Please remember to use these cards when shopping.

Amazon Smiles. The Church received \$163.55 from this program.

The people of Zion are blessed to have received so much but keep in mind without the financial contributions listed above we would not have been able to pay our bills. The weekly offerings and other income would not have been enough to cover our expenses.

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 Dave, Ann Marie and our Parish Administrator Melody for the exceptional work they do.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Jones, Finance Committee Chairperson

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET 2023

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$180.00
Donations	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Total Commitment	\$6,530.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,530.00

Pastor Expenses

Pastor Salary	\$38,390.00	\$38,390.04	\$38,390.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Pastor Life Insurance	\$1,199.00	\$1,215.22	\$927.00
Pastor Health Insurance	\$21,949.00	\$21,378.86	\$23,327.00
Pastor H S A	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Pastor Pension	\$5,450.00	\$5,450.16	\$5,450.00
Pastor Social Security Allowance	\$3,534.00	\$3,533.92	\$3,534.00
Pastor Continuing Education	\$400.00	\$204.99	\$400.00
Pastor Housing Equity	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
Vacation Supply	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Pastor Expenses	\$74,652.00	\$72,403.19	\$75,758.00

Lay Staff Exp

Parish Administrator	\$17,911.00	\$16,640.00	\$18,806.55
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$9,704.00	\$9,704.76	\$9,995.00
Maintenance Sexton/Snow Removal	\$1,224.00	\$48.00	\$1,224.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$6,233.00	\$6,232.72	\$6,420.00
Financial Secretary	\$2,754.00	\$2,755.22	\$2,836.00
Treasurer	\$3,444.00	\$3,443.96	\$3,547.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Director Christian Education	\$600.00	\$599.00	\$600.00
Total Lay Staff Exp	\$42,070.00	\$39,423.66	\$43,628.55

Administration

Office Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$845.03	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$1,634.22	\$3,000.00
Mailings	\$800.00	\$1,009.85	\$1,500.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$1,200.00	\$199.22	\$1,200.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,700.00	\$1,710.00	\$1,700.00
Advertising & Media	\$600.00	\$273.00	\$200.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$600.00	\$198.00	\$600.00
Total Adm. Exp.	\$8,900.00	\$5,869.32	\$9,200.00

Property

Fuel Oil	\$19,000.00	\$33,620.94	\$30,000.00
Electricity	\$5,000.00	\$4,391.58	\$5,000.00
Phone	\$1,400.00	\$1,417.66	\$1,400.00
Internet	\$1,680.00	\$1,679.40	\$1,680.00
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$7,500.00	\$19,857.85	\$7,500.00
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$250.00	\$219.38	\$150.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$2,500.00	\$2,562.00	\$2,500.00
Cemetery/Mower Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$1,730.07	\$2,000.00
Total Property	\$39,830.00	\$65,478.88	\$50,730.00

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED			
Improvement Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Organ Repair Expenses	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Fund Expense	\$2,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance			
Employer Share Taxes	\$5,500.00	\$2,966.22	\$5,500.00
Insurance	\$16,000.00	\$16,125.00	\$16,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,000.00	\$819.00	\$1,000.00
Total Insurance	\$22,500.00	\$19,910.22	\$22,500.00
Worship and Music			
Music	\$75.00	\$254.53	\$75.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$2,300.00	\$2,820.42	\$2,300.00
Communion Supplies	\$550.00	\$182.77	\$550.00
Candles	\$500.00	\$258.56	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$400.00	\$597.60	\$400.00
Bulletins	\$900.00	\$825.65	\$900.00
Acolytes	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$350.00	\$131.16	\$350.00
Ministry Materials	\$250.00	\$201.25	\$250.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$850.00	\$902.00	\$850.00
Worship Materials	\$500.00	\$491.75	\$500.00
Music Vacation Supply	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Web Cast	\$1,300.00	\$1,259.28	\$1,300.00
Total Worship & Music	\$8,475.00	\$8,324.97	\$8,475.00
Christian Education			
Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies	\$500.00	\$25.47	\$300.00
Adult Education	\$300.00	\$44.99	\$300.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	\$453.17	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council	\$100.00	\$756.00	\$100.00
Vac. Church School	\$500.00	\$1,012.04	\$1,500.00
Total Christian Education	\$1,600.00	\$2,291.67	\$2,400.00
Stewardship & Evang			
Offering Envelopes	\$1,800.00	\$2,787.02	\$2,500.00
Stewardship	\$500.00	\$421.48	\$500.00
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$2,300.00	\$3,208.50	\$3,000.00
Social Ministry			
Steven's Ministry	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Total Social Ministry	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$283.20	\$250.00
Special Events	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Health Benefit Account			
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$120.00	\$100.00
Total Misc Budgeted Accounts	\$650.00	\$403.20	\$650.00
GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS	\$210,587.00	\$223,313.61	\$228,871.55

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Non-Budgeted Misc Accts			
ELCA Benevolence		\$289.00	
World Hunger		\$1,754.00	
LWR		\$241.10	
Missionary/Joyful Noise		\$2,914.12	
Seminary Scholarship		\$0.00	
Annuity Expense			
Harvest Home			
Tree of Remembrance Expense			
Loaves & Fishes Ministry Expense		\$372.05	
Congregational Life Expense		\$597.23	
Misc Pass Through Expense		\$988.00	
Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts	\$0.00	\$7,155.50	\$0.00
Culinary Expenses		\$2,570.87	
Helping Hands Expense		\$760.72	
Ministerial Expense		\$0.00	
Outreach Expense		\$9,809.59	
Senior Choir Expense		\$425.00	
Scholarship Fund Expense		\$200.00	
Library Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Campership Expense		\$0.00	
Capital Campaign Expenses		\$0.00	
Cap. Camp. Repay Endowment		\$46,000.00	
Interest Paid on Endowment		\$465.14	
Mission Fund Expense		\$0.00	
Zion Diaper Fund Expense		\$1,157.10	
Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted	\$0.00	\$61,388.42	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$210,587.00	\$291,857.53	\$228,871.55

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH REVENUE BUDGET 2023

	2022 Budget	Actual 2022	2023 Budget
Weekly Offerings			
*Envelopes	\$99,000.00	\$95,985.88	\$99,000.00
Plate	\$2,750.00	\$6,397.40	\$4,500.00
Sunday School	\$100.00	\$654.79	\$100.00
Total Weekly Offerings	\$101,850.00	\$103,038.07	\$103,600.00
Special Gifts			
Reformation	\$100.00	\$113.00	\$100.00
Birthdays	\$500.00	\$612.00	\$500.00
All Saints	\$130.00	\$180.00	\$130.00
Thanksgiving	\$150.00	\$170.00	\$150.00
Ash Wednesday	\$200.00	\$399.00	\$250.00
Lenten Gifts	\$900.00	\$771.00	\$775.00
Maundy Thursday	\$140.00	\$191.00	\$150.00
Good Friday	\$250.00	\$149.00	\$200.00
Easter	\$1,750.00	\$2,273.00	\$1,900.00
Ascension	\$200.00	\$104.00	\$200.00
Pentecost	\$200.00	\$146.00	\$200.00
Advent	\$250.00	\$504.00	\$350.00
Christmas	\$2,500.00	\$3,040.00	\$2,500.00
New Year	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$50.00
Memorials/Honorarium	\$2,000.00	\$2,157.13	\$2,500.00
Energy	\$1,275.00	\$3,073.08	\$2,000.00
Boyers Cards	\$500.00	\$537.36	\$550.00
Amazon Prime	\$100.00	\$163.55	\$125.00
Redners Receipts	\$150.00	\$217.83	\$100.00
Total Specials Gifts	\$11,345.00	\$14,855.95	\$12,730.00
Designated Gifts			
Organ Fund	\$100.00	\$210.00	\$125.00
Cemetery Fund	\$800.00	\$875.00	\$500.00
Improvement Fund	\$3,800.00	\$3,830.67	\$4,000.00
VBS	\$180.00	\$2,947.75	\$200.00
Endowment Gift	\$20,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$21,000.00
Total Designated Gifts	\$24,880.00	\$61,863.42	\$25,825.00
Facilities Rental & Services			
Facilities Rental	\$100.00	\$590.00	\$360.00
Good's N Stuff/Thrift Store	\$2,000.00	\$7,725.66	\$6,000.00
Total Facilities Rental & Services	\$2,100.00	\$8,315.66	\$6,360.00
Reimbursements and Other			
Initial Envelopes	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Flowers	\$250.00	\$531.60	\$300.00
Bulletins/Herald	\$500.00	\$762.00	\$550.00
Radio Spots	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candles	\$200.00	\$450.00	\$200.00
Music and Licenses	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
Thrivent	\$450.00	\$582.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Reimbursements Other	\$2,075.00	\$2,625.60	\$2,225.00
Total Annual Projected Revenue			
Budget	\$142,250.00	\$190,698.70	\$150,740.00

OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORTS

BLESSING THRIFT SHOP MINISTRY 2022

January: 10 shoppers; \$376.50 (bad weather)

February: 70 shoppers; \$1,104.16

March 11: 39 shoppers; \$963.28 – Lori Krell asked people where they were coming from. The majority of people came from Tamaqua but we had people come from Coaldale, Lansford, Summit Hill and Ashland.

No date scheduled for April, but past and present Diaper Depot clients were invited to ship on diaper distribution day, April 16; 13 clients shopped - \$239.51

May 6-7: 131 shoppers (90/41); \$2,715.19

June – 80 shoppers; \$1,904.60

July 8 – 120 shoppers; \$1,642

August 5 – 145 shoppers; \$1,549.25

September 2 – 106 shoppers; \$1,498

October 7 – 102 shoppers; \$1,626.09

November 4 – 123 shoppers; \$1,698.74

2022 totals: 1,326 shoppers; \$15,077.81 (half to Current/half Outreach)

CULINARY MINISTRY 2022

February hoagie sale – 196 hoagies - \$1,124

(Revised from previous figure of \$904.47)

March sauerkraut dinner – 96 diners - \$849

March 30 baked fish/chicken fingers – 124 served; \$1,340

April 10 – *Congregational breakfast – served 80 and received \$150 in donations

April 28 – Hoagie sale – 215 sold; \$1,505

May 12 – Pasta dinner – 96 diners – \$932

May 28 – Summer picnic – 33 served

June 23 – Strawberry social – 160 served; \$1,306.84

July 20 – *Benefit ice cream social – 83 people; \$888

July 28 – Hoagie sale – 235 hoagies - \$1,470

Aug. 18 – Peach Social – 100—diners; \$1084.27

Sept. 15 – 40 pies, 27 quarts of soup, 275 halupkis – 150 served-\$1,265

Sept. 28 – Hoagie sale – 196 hoagies; \$1,240

Oct. 20 – Oktober Feast – 52 diners; \$368

Nov. 21 – Filling sale – 27 pans, 13 quarts; \$438

Nov. 26 – Congregational breakfast – 75 served' \$95 donations

Dec. 8 – Hoagie sale – 216 hoagies; \$1,201.42

2022 totals: 2,096 meals served; \$15,123

*Not included in year-to-date total

We also made 32 quarts of soup for the Community Soup Sale; 17 sold and some was donated to the needy through Judy and we sold a few, (not sure how many)

We closed our year with a bagging of sauerkraut (20 gallon). It's so good!

DIAPER DEPOT MINISTRY REPORT 2022

Month	Requests	Delivered	Kids served	Diapers given
January	44	29	41	1,810
February	36	30	45	1,900
March	39	34	43	1,940
April	31	27	38	1,620
May	38	30	43	2,100
June	32	25	38	1,840
July	37	29	40	1,920
August	31	27	38	1,770
September	44	34	46	2,360
October	41	37	50	2,570
November	43	32	48	2,030
December	36	28	34	1,570
2022 total	452	362	504	23,430
Since start	2,010	1,707	2,327	107,590

JOYFUL NOISE 2022

We restarted our Joyful Noise offering in March. Joyful Noise collections benefit local, national and world-wide humanitarian organizations. The collections taken the third weekend of the month are supplemented by funds from Outreach. Outreach funds come from Blessings Thrift Sale proceeds. Thank you for your generous gifts.

3-8-22 World Central Kitchen	Joyful \$264		Total sent \$264
5-4-22 World Central Kitchen	Joyful \$1736		Total sent \$1736
6-12-22 Save The Children	Joyful \$113.13	Outreach \$386.87	Total sent \$500
7-18-22 Kisses for Kyle	Joyful \$182.60	Outreach \$317.40	Total sent \$500
9-7-22 Kentucky Treasurer	Joyful \$151.37	Outreach \$348.63	Total sent \$500
10-18-22 Horse and Horizons	Joyful \$153.80	Outreach \$346.20	Total sent \$500
11-19-22 Greater Philadelphia	Joyful \$131.94	Outreach \$1,068.06	Total sent \$1,200
Diaper Bank			
12-17-22 Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet	Joyful \$74	Outreach \$426	Total sent \$500

PEOPLE'S PANTRY

In addition to the donations received from Zion members and members of the community, we also received an additional \$2,750 to purchase food: \$2,000 from the Tamaqua Hunger Campaign and \$750 in donations in memory of an individual.

The People's Pantry is stocked several times a week. Please keep in mind that this ministry is meant to be an emergency food source, not a full-fledged food pantry like those at American Primitive Methodist Church, Trinity UCC or Stokes Ministry.

Arlene Derr oversees the stocking of the pantry.

ZION ONLINE WEBCASTS

DATE	MORNING PRAYER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January	195 viewers	195	355
February	188	155	349
March	454	70	359
April	371	101	558
May	237	101	388
June	294	135	346
July	316	138	497
August	170	77	359
September	203	98	423
October	176	99	540
November	166	67	462
December	234	478*	320**
2022	2,828	1,714	4,956

* Includes Christmas Eve services

** Sunday, Dec. 25 service not webcast-technical difficulty

PHONELIVESTREAM SERVICE REPORT 2022

Phonelivestream changed its billing practices in September. Our monthly \$59 fee gives us 2071 minutes of listening time. Anything over that is billed extra. To prevent overage charges, we now limit our phone streaming to the 2071 minutes. When we get close to the 2071 minutes, we stop phonestreaming for the month.

On average we have 4 to 6 people listening to an event, sometimes as few as 2. At onetime we had several people donating to cover the monthly fees. That is not now the case. So, we are considering whether or not spending \$708 a year is cost effective reaching a rather small number of people.

ZION WEBSITE (Jan. 9, 2022 to Jan 9, 2023)

12,989 visitors – We are told by our website hosts that this number include robots that scan websites for content which is then used by search sites such as Google.

Since start in 2017, 101,694 visitors

Top 10 Countries: USA; Canada, 399 visitors; United Kingdom, 207; Ireland, 131; Singapore, 72; Germany, 45; Australia, 31; South Africa, 13; Honduras, 10

We are currently in the process of developing a new website. We expect the site to be up and running towards the end of February or early March. Our current website we developed in 2017.

WORSHIP and MUSIC--2022

MUSIC, CANTORS, LECTORS, and COMMUNION ASSISTANTS



I could never begin to tally the volunteer hours that are given to make our liturgy at Zion meaningful and worshipful. The choir who gives hours of practice and their gift of song each week, the lectors who prepare the readings, the cantors who offer leadership to the service, and the communion assistants who prayerfully share the body of Christ with each of us on a Sunday morning all give their time and talents as a gift of love for their Lord. We also thank the soloists in the summer, Thomas Graham for his trumpet music, Molly Betz for her piano music when I am on vacation, and the confirmands who help put the hymn numbers on the front boards for Sunday services. All of these people offer these gifts in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord.

Several people who have served faithfully for many years have stepped down this year, but several new folks have offered to serve in these positions. I am so grateful for each of these members who have answered God's call to be worship leaders.

The senior choir graciously paid to have four pipes re-leathered. Those pipes had been damaged by water from the outside wall. Since that water leak has been repaired, the organ tuners were able to do the work in November and all pipes and stops are now working on the organ. What a glorious instrument we have at Zion.

Every committee, every action, every outreach that we do here at Zion is so important and makes our church a vibrant and living testimony to God. It is the worship service that is at the center of all our activity. It is at our worship where we hear the Word of God read and feast on His body and blood; where we learn of His sacrifice for us; where we bring our prayers of both concern and thanksgiving; where we ask for and receive His mercy and forgiveness. Come and join us at our worship service. Take part in singing and listening, praying and praising. You will be comforted and uplifted. You will feel blessed.



Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko

Capital Campaign—2022

We are pleased to announce that phase 2 of our renovations is completely paid back to our Endowment Fund. On September 17, 2019, we borrowed \$175,000.00 from the Endowment Fund and agreed to pay it back, with 2% interest. On December 3, 2022, we closed the book on that loan, along with \$5,480.00 in interest to Endowment. Thanks be to God for helping us with this project, and thanks to each of you who contributed and worked to make this a success. This is just one more of the countless blessings God has given to us.

We ask that you continue to fulfill your pledge to the Capital Campaign or continue giving to that cause. Any money received for Capital Campaign is now going into a separate fund for the next step of our renovation. At this time, we are not sure when that will happen or what it will be. We are currently searching for a leader to head the next phase, and we thank Dave Fetterman who served as our leader for several years. He is remaining on the committee, but not in charge. We thank each person who serves on the committee for all they have done. Please contact the office or any person on the committee if you are interested in helping.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko

Christian Education Department
Michael Haspe – Christian Education Superintendent
Annual Report 2022

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. – Proverbs 22:6. I was blessed to deliver a sermon on this scripture following our Vacation Bible School program in 2022. At Zion we are blessed to be able to provide bible truth, and have a positive impact on the lives of the children who attend here. I thank each of you for your generous contributions of time, talent, financial gifts, and support to our educational programs. We could not be as effective and reach as many children without your continued support. I am deeply grateful. If you have any ideas for new educational opportunities, please contact me at zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com. It is my pleasure, and an honor to serve God, our congregation. God Bless You and may the Peace of the Lord be with you always. – Michael Haspe

Kid’s Fellowship Area: The kid’s fellowship area in the former nursery continues to be utilized every Sunday following Sunday school. As the children are aging the need for a more age appropriate room for the older children has surfaced. This is in the planning stages with a hope to be completed by the end of 2023. The new room would provide more age appropriate activities for older children. A wish list from the older children includes an O Gauge scale train set, chalkboards and easels to create art, and a ping pong table. The goal of the fellowship rooms are to give children a safe space for fellowship and play. Activities, crafts, toys, and games are still needed for older children.

Sunday School: Total Enrollment: 22
Teachers: Michael Haspe, Mary Ruth Taylor, Tiffany Warden
Time: 10:15 am – 11:00 am

Sunday School students studied the book of Genesis throughout the fall term. Lessons surrounding the Nativity of our Lord through the Advent season. Students will study the life and teaching of Jesus Christ in the Spring term of 2023. Following a 45-minute class time the children are permitted to play in the kid’s fellowship room downstairs.

Confirmation:
Total Enrollment: 2
Teachers: Pastor Cindy White, & Michael Haspe

1 Student was confirmed at the Pentecost 2022 service on June 5. As customary confirmation took a break for the summer months. Confirmation classes resumed in September with 1 student eligible for The Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost in 2023. Due to lack of Sunday school during the interim of no full time Pastor we have continued working towards the challenges on educating the confirmation students on traditional bible learning that would normally happen during Sunday school. The students are currently in Year B and studying the Old & New Testament, & Lutheranism 101. Under the current 2-year period of instruction attendance has steadily declined since 2017. Most Lutheran Churches in the ELCA, have a 1-year (or less) period of instruction. Pastor Cindy and I are actively investigating new Confirmation curriculum in an effort to increase attendance while maximizing impact on learning. The hope was to have a curriculum in place for 2022, however we did not identify a curriculum that provided the education we were looking for. The goal to identify a fresh curriculum is still ongoing with hopes we will find something for the for the 2023-2024 instruction year.

First Holy Communion: There were 3 children registered for First Holy Communion classes in 2022. 3 of the students have received first holy communion. The class is led by Pastor Cindy White & Michael Haspe.

Adult Education at Zion: Adult Sunday School signups have been on the Gathering Room table since the start of the fall term. To date we only have 1 member that has signed up for Adult Education opportunities.

Vacation Bible School: 75 children were in attendance. We used Cokesbury's 2022 program "Food Truck Party". The program left a positive impact on both the children that attended, as well as VBS volunteers. During Food Truck Party "Chefs" assisted First Time Food Truck Owner "Top Chef Mike", and DJ Cupcake open his "On a Roll Food Truck". Students learned the mealtime prayer by using the 5 Daily Specials (God is Great!, God is Good!, Let us thank God for our food., By God's hand we all are fed., Give us Lord this day our daily bread). By the end of the week the evidence of the effectiveness of the program was evident. Many parents expressed it was the first time they saw their child pray. The children had a very positive reaction to the puppet/person characters. After the opening assembly children rotated through Bible Explorations with Deb Davies, Crafts & Missions with Judy Brennan, Music with Beth Marcavage, and Ashley Heatter, and Science with Ells Davis. The week finished out with a half lesson day, and the Food Truck Themed Party closing! At the closing party children sang songs, ate dinner together, and shared fellowship with DJ Cupcake, their families, children, and VBS staff. A huge thank you to all VBS volunteers, group leaders, and all who donated! The 2023 Theme is Cokesbury's Hero Hotline. Your continued support is appreciated. Donations to VBS and should be marked "Vacation Bible School".



Hotline Verse:

"So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Romans 14:19

Daily Hotline Tips:

Heroes are called to **FOLLOW JESUS**

Heroes are called to **HELP OTHERS**

Heroes are called to **WORK TOGETHER**

Heroes are called to **LISTEN TO GOD**

Heroes are called to **SHOW GRACE**

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play. Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

When Heroes in the field call in, the Professor, Super Meer, and our team of heroes will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook -the Bible- to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world.

As kids (called Heroes) experience these stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they'll learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace! And, best of all, they'll be invited to answer this call at VBS, at church, at home, and every area of their lives.

Reference: cokesburyvbs.com

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN 2022

It's been eight years since we've had any kind of stewardship program here at Zion. The last program in 2014 was entitled "Make It Simple."

We have gotten somewhat out of practice when it comes to giving.

This fall we participated in "Building a Culture of Generosity" offered by the ELCA through a professional fundraising company. We followed the program to the T.

We found the emphasis of BCG enlightening: "Instead of focusing on our own need to give as we should, all too often we mistakenly center on the need of the church to receive."

We have shared inspiring stories of how Zion ministries have affected members and impacted the community. We've shared visions of new ministries to share God's love: "The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of--God's church and to experience the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending its mission."

Our generosity campaign has left us with some important lessons.

(1) To fully support Zion's many ministries, giving must be intentional and not accidental. We asked the congregation to complete intent cards to help members plan their giving for the coming year. Sixty-two members answered the call to complete intent cards, freeing a \$2,000 challenge gift to be used for our Christian Education program and as seed money to start a Stephen Ministry program in Tamaqua.

(2) We strive to make giving more consistent. To that end, we have developed a new online giving page through Vanco. The page is beautiful. It highlights many of our ministries and provides a safe, secure easy way to give automatically using credit cards or bank accounts. Three people used our previous online giving page which many felt was not very user friendly. Eleven people are currently using the new giving page. We'd like to double and maybe triple that number this year.

There is a fee for using the page. The fee can be paid by the giver or by the church. If the fee bothers you, maybe you do not know that the church pays over \$3,000 a year sending out envelopes that statistics show that a 1/3 of our congregation do not use. If we continue to increase the number of members using automatic online giving so that giving becomes more consistent, more stable, then the fee – even if it's paid by the church – becomes somewhat irrelevant.

(3) Finally, we strive to help our members grow in their giving. We encourage growth in giving because it can reflect a growth in faith: "For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled "The Need of the Church." We need to begin concentrating on the side headed "My Need to Give" for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth."

Even if you did not complete an intent card but you've paid attention and you understand that Zion's ministries thrive when giving that is planned, consistent and progressive, well then, we've done our job.

"Building a Culture of Generosity" was not meant to be a quick fix but rather it has allowed Zion leadership to refocus attention on ministry, mission and impact. "Building" implies an ongoing process and that process has hopefully been restarted here at Zion.

My thanks to fellow Generosity Team members Rochelle Evanousky, Martha Zellner, Jim McRoberts and Brian Lawfer. George Taylor

DID YOU KNOW

Zion officially as of Jan. 1, 2023, has 387 members on its role and 336 giving units. (Husband and wife members are treated as a single giving unit.)

As of October 2022, 51% of Zion's congregation has participated in the capital campaign by either making a pledge or giving a gift to the campaign.

Our constitution defines an active voting member as one who has communed and made a contribution of record in the last two-year period.

If one fails to accomplish one of the two during the two-year period (communed and contributed), he/she is an active non-voting member.

If one fails to do either (communed and contributed) in a two-year period, he/she is an inactive member.

As of Jan. 1, 2023 ...

118 members of Zion have not made a contribution of record in the last 2 years;

86 members of Zion have not had a communion of record in the last 2 years; and

52 members of Zion have not made a contribution of record and have not had a communion of record in the last 2 years.

Congregational Life Committee

2022 Annual Report

Purpose: Plan & host free activities and events for all members of the congregation promoting faith & fellowship. Our vision is to invest in the people of our Zion, ensuring God's people feel welcome, loved, and a part of fellowship.

Committee Chair: Deb Davies

2022 Events:

April 3 - Family Easter Event: 39 children and 31 adults attended the event. Children were given craft bags, watched a family easter movie, and enjoyed candy making and egg painting activities.

May 21 - Pizza and Chili Dog Fundraiser: The sale consisted of pre-made pizzas available baked/unbaked and chili dogs with a choice of sweet or hot homemade chili. Funds raised for future free fellowship activities \$628.75.

June 19 - Summerfest Fundraiser: Hand-Rolled Soft Pretzels, and Hand Squeezed Lemonade. Funds raised for future free fellowship activities \$1,739.00.

September 17 - Sippin' Cider Fall Wreath Make and Take: Participants enjoyed Apple Cider while learning the art of grapevine wreath making. The class was led by Melissa D'Alonzo and had 20 participants.

October 9 – Heritage Festival Fundraiser: Hand-Rolled Soft Pretzels, and Caramel Apples. Funds raised for future free fellowship activities \$1,352.00.

November 13 – Congregational Christmas Ornament Making: Participants made Christmas ornaments that were handed out throughout Advent and on Christmas season. 30 people attended the class. The children came down from Sunday School to assist in the fellowship of ornament making.

Family Christmas Event: 34 children and 32 adults attended the event. Participants enjoyed a craft goodie bag, a Christmas movie, a visit from Santa Claus, and a Make Your Own Merry Christmas Sundae!

Ideas for upcoming events:

- Pinochle Night
- Card Making Make and Take
- Family Board Game Night
- Easter and Christmas Events
- Continue Christmas Ornament Making
- Coffee House Night

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Tamaqua PA

Giving Step Report: 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Giving Range		Total Given
\$0.00 - \$0.00	Count: 142	\$0.00
\$0.01 - \$52.00	Count: 48	\$1,152.50
\$52.01 - \$104.00	Count: 18	\$1,429.00
\$104.01 - \$156.00	Count: 16	\$2,101.00
\$156.01 - \$208.00	Count: 6	\$1,175.00
\$208.01 - \$260.00	Count: 8	\$1,912.40
\$260.01 - \$312.00	Count: 10	\$2,963.00
\$312.01 - \$364.00	Count: 8	\$2,685.99
\$364.01 - \$416.00	Count: 2	\$783.00
\$416.01 - \$468.00	Count: 4	\$1,770.00
\$468.01 - \$520.00	Count: 3	\$1,540.00
\$520.01 - \$780.00	Count: 15	\$9,856.60
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	Count: 5	\$4,593.00
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	Count: 9	\$10,499.30
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	Count: 11	\$16,055.79
\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00	Count: 8	\$15,092.51
\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00	Count: 3	\$7,355.00
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	Count: 7	\$19,887.46
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	Count: 3	\$9,996.00
\$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00	Count: 3	\$11,726.58
\$4,160.01 - \$4,680.00	Count: 2	\$8,574.00
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	Count: 2	\$9,840.00
> \$6,240.01	Count: 3	\$34,519.94

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission:

Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

Vision:

United in faith we walk with and serve the hungry, hopeless, and disregarded.

Together we respect and care for the diversity of all God's people and the enormous gift of God's creation.

Speaking the Gospel of forgiveness and grace in our words and actions, we welcome all into the joy that is found in, with, and under Jesus Christ.

Humbled by Christ's sacrifice we strive to bring God's kingdom to earth and advocate for justice, mercy, and peace in our community, and throughout the world.