

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



Sunday School - 1875 Organized - 1876 Incorporated - 1899

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2023

Annual Meeting, February 11, 2022

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ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Sunday February 11, 2024

Regular

Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

- Devotions - *The Rev. Cindy White*
- Establish a quorum – *Sign In - 30 active voting members are needed.*
- Welcome & Introduction of Church Council & Staff –

Officers: Michael Haspe – President, Brian Lawfer – Vice President, Ernie Henritzky – Secretary, **Council**

Members: Judy Brennan, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzingler, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Kailey Richards, Steve Ristila, Brittany Scalfani, and Mary Ruth Taylor

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

COUNCIL SECRETARY

- Minutes – Adoption of Minutes of February 2023, & December 2023 Congregational Meetings.

RECEPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Treasurer – *Dave Gensure*
- Financial Secretary – *Ann Marie Hadesty*
- Audit –
 - o Motion to accept Financial Reports

RECEPTION OF OTHER REPORTS

- Chairs – *Introduce yourself, members of your committee, and 2023 Highlights.*
- Additional comments or information to add
- Questions entertained
 - o Motion to accept all reports

STATE OF THE CONGREGATION

- Attendance Report
- Giving Step Report
- President’s 2023 Summary
- President’s 2024 Goals

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

Pastor’s Goals 2024

Licensed Lay Ministry

6261

Growing Young

Contemporary Worship Service

ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING DEVOTIONS

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - PARISH STAFF 2024

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

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:

NAME:	TERM	ENDING	POSITION/COMMITTEE /SERVICE TO CHURCH
Michael Haspe	2nd	12/31/25	President / Christian Education/VBS Director/ Property Committee
Brian Lawfer	2nd	12/31/26	Vice President / Property Committee / VBS
Ernie Henritzky	2 nd	12/31/25	Secretary / Mutual Ministry / Cleaning Angels / VBS
Judy Brennan	1 st	12/31/24	Member / Blessings Thrift / Outreach / VBS / Counting
Arlene Derr	2nd	12/31/26	Member / Culinary / People's Pantry / Outreach
Glen Fritzingler	2 nd	12/31/25	Member / Culinary / Outreach / Usher
Thomas Graham	1 st	12/31/26	Member/Youth Advocate
Carol Hartung	1 st	12/31/25	Member / Choir / Culinary / Blessings Thrift / Altar Guild
Steve Ristila	1 st	12/31/24	Member / Finance / Counting Team
Brittany Scalfani	1 st	12/31/26	Member/TBD
Mary Ruth Taylor	2 nd	12/31/25	Member / Culinary / Outreach / Mutual Ministry / Choir

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CONTACTS:

Altar Guild	Sandy Graham	570-449-1092
Acolyte Director	Art Connelly	570-668-5370
Blessings Thrift Sale	Judy Brennan	jdymatteo@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	(VACANT)	
Worship & Music	Sandy Mehalko	ioesan@ptd.net
Vacation Bible School	Michael Haspe	zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Day and Date of Meeting: Sunday, February 12, 2023

Council President Micheal Haspe called the meeting to order.

A quorum was established with 32 members in attendance.

Pastor Cindy White opened with a prayer.

Welcome and introduction of Church council and Staff:

Micheal Haspe-President, Brian Lawfer-Vice President, Ernie Henritzky-Secretary, Judy Brennan, Carol Hartung, Arlene Derr, Steve Ristilla, Glenn Fritzingler, Mary Ruth Taylor, Kailey Richards, Darian Moyer-Youth advocate

Staff:

Melody Gensure – Parish Administrator

Dave Gensure – Treasurer

Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary

Sandra Mehalko – Parish Musician

Cindy White – Pastor

Adoption of minutes of February and December 2022 Congregational meetings were approved on the motion of Sharron Haldeman, seconded by Arlene Derr. All in favor, nobody opposed

.

Reception of Financial Reports:

Treasurer – Dave Gensure

Financial Secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty

Audit

All financial reports were accepted on the motion of Gerry Zeigler, seconded by Arlene Derr.

All were in favor, nobody opposed

Reception of Committee Reports and Other reports:

Committee Chairs and members present were introduced to all in attendance.

Worship and Music : Sandy Mehalko spoke to the congregation about the many volunteer hours that are given to make our liturgy at Zion meaningful and worshipful. She praised the choir, the lectors, the cantors, and the communion assistants as they all give their time and talent as a gift of love for their Lord. Sandy also thanked Thomas Graham for his solo trumpet music and Molly Betz for her piano music when she's on vacation.

Sandy thanked those who served for many years and stepped down this year , but noted several new people have offered to serve in these positions. She is grateful for each of these

members who have answered God's call.

The senior choir had paid to have four pipes re-leathered for the organ. The pipes had been damaged by water from a leaky outside wall. The water leak was repaired allowing the organ tuners to do all the work needed in November 2022.

Altar Guild : Sandy Graham spoke to the congregation and pointed out the different tasks associated with 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.

Capital Campaign : Dave Fetterman addressed the congregation and reported, as written in the report by Sandy Mehalko, that our phase 2 of our renovations is completely paid back to our Endowment fund along with 2% interest. On September 17, 2019 we borrowed \$175,000 and agreed to pay it back with interest. On December 3,2022 we paid it back in full plus the \$5480 in interest. Dave asked that everyone continue to fulfill their pledge to Capital campaign as any money received is now going into a separate fund for the next phase/step of our building renovation. All who gave and helped were thanked.

Bob Jones and Dave Fetterman are working to properly invest Capital Campaign money.

Dave is stepping down from being the committee chair and somebody would be needed to take that role but Dave is willing to help.

Dave also reported that non-pledgers had given to Capital Campaign.

Finance Committee : Bob Jones reported to the congregation that the Church was still dealing with the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and multiple issues with the building. As a result we ended 2022 with a budget deficit of \$8,385.17. Bob noted that the increase in fuel oil and electricity is also a factor. With income not sufficient to cover expenses a total of \$54,000 was withdrawn from the Endowment fund to cover the shortfall. The finance committee sees this as a dangerous trend that money to support the Church is now being tapped from Endowment and not from giving and/or gifts. Finance thanked the Endowment committee for managing the Church's assets.

The finance committee also thanked the Culinary team and the Thrift store group as the Culinary team raised \$12,945 and the Thrift store raised \$6,912.66.

It was also mentioned that Boyer's and Redner's rewards help. The Church received \$537.30 from Boyer's and \$217.83 from Redner's. Also the Church received \$163.55 from Amazon smile..

Members of Zion who have savings invested with Thrivent were able to use funds available to them to help with various projects and socials throughout the year at Zion. As a result Zion received \$596 last year through Thrivent thanks to our Thrivent members.

Micheal Haspe thanked the Finance committee for their hard work and dedication

Endowment Fund : Walter Weston reported how and when the Endowment fund started.

Up until 2000 the finance committee bought CD's and invested in The Lutheran Brotherhood funds. By the end of 1999 Zion had a savings balance of \$103,773.

During 2000, after Zion inherited money from two member family bequests, Pastor Crawford asked Walter to form and start an Endowment Fund. Walter followed through as asked. Walter thanked Paul Pecca and all the committee members along with all who have supported and contributed to this fund. Bequests helped to fund 68% of the contributions. The fund annually returns 4.5% of its value back to the Church budget. Since the start the fund has returned \$479,561 back to Zion. Endowment value at the end of 2022 was \$422,094

Endowment investments include 36% fixed bank notes and CD's with 64% invested in single stocks managed with MCT Trust.

Investments lost 12.7% last year as the stock market dropped 21-25%. We will hope for better returns in 2023.

Outreach Annual 2022 reports: George Taylor reported on our many outreach programs at Zion.

Through our Blessing Thrift Shop ministry, led by Judy Brennan, Zion served 1,326 shoppers from Tamaqua and surrounding areas including Coaldale, Lansford, Summit Hill, and Ashland with \$15,077.81

Culinary Ministry : 2,096 meals were served over 2022 which was made up of 5 hoagie sales, a sauerkraut dinner, baked fish/chicken fingers, 2 congregational breakfasts, pasta dinner, summer picnic, strawberry social, peach social, benefit ice cream social, pies, soup, halupki, Oktober feast, and a filling sale. Also 32 quarts of soup for the community soup sale; 17 sold and some donated to the needy through Judy Brennan. The year closed bagging 20 gallons of sauerkraut.

Diaper Depot : 2022 totals were 452 requests, 362 delivered, 504 kids served, with a total of 23,430 diapers given. Total diapers given since the start in 2010 is 107,590

Joyful Noise : There were 8 Joyful noise collections in 2022 to benefit local, national, and world-wide humanitarian organizations. \$2806.84 collected with Outreach donating \$2893.16 which totaled \$5700

People's Pantry : In addition to donations received by Zion members and community members , Zion received \$2,750 to purchase food. \$2000 from the Tamaqua hunger campaign and \$750 in donations in memory of an individual. Arlene Derr oversees the stocking of the pantry.

Online webcasts : In 2022 Morning Prayer reached 2,828 viewers, Saturday service reached 1,714, and Sunday reached 4,956

Phone livestream service : 2022 report shows on average we have 4 to 6 people listening to an event . At one time there were several people donating to cover the monthly fees but that is not the case now. It is being considered whether or not spending \$708 a year is cost effective for such a small group.

Zion Website : Jan.9,2022– Jan.9,2023 there were 12,989 visitors. This number includes robots that scan websites for content used by search sites such as Google. 101,694 visitors since start in 2017. Top 10 Countries that visited: USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Singapore,

Germany, Australia, South Africa, And Honduras

Zion is currently in the process of developing a new website. The site is expected to be up and running towards the end of February or early March. Current website was developed 2017
George recommended the website building process needs to be turned over to professionals.

Questions arose about website:

Dave Fetterman asked "Why change it?" George answered "To attract more people/families"
Dave also asked "How many non-members give due to website?" George responded that there is no way to know at this time .

George also commented that Live stream gets your numbers of views higher.

Micheal Haspe added that it's easier to use with updated website

Generosity Campaign 2022 : George Taylor explained that it was 8 years since there was any kind of stewardship program at Zion and felt we have gotten out of practice when it comes to our giving. In the fall of 2022 George and his fellow team members Rochelle Evanousky, Martha Zellner, Jim McRoberts, and Brian Lawfer participated in "Building a Culture of Generosity" offered by the ELCA through a professional fundraising company.

Our Generosity campaign has left us with some important lessons. To keep our giving more consistent it was asked of the congregation to complete intent cards to help plan their giving. 62 members completed cards freeing a \$2000 challenge gift to be used for our Christian Education program and as seed money to start a Stephen ministry program in Tamaqua.

A better online giving page was developed through Vanco. The page highlights our many ministries and provides a safe, secure, and easy to use way to give automatically using credit cards or bank accounts.

George noted that this isn't a quick fix but a way for Zion leadership to refocus on ministry, mission, and impact. George thanked his fellow team members for their hard work.

Congregational Life Committee 2022: Micheal Haspe refreshed the congregation on what the purpose of Congregation Life is. Our vision is to invest in the people of Zion, ensuring God's people feel welcome, loved, and part of fellowship. There were 4 fellowship events and 3 fundraiser events. The fundraiser events raised \$3719.75 for future free events. The events included family movies along with egg painting and candy making for Easter , Grapevine wreath making while sipping apple cider , making Christmas ornaments to be handed out during Advent and Christmas, and a Christmas event with a visit from Santa along with make your own sundae. Some ideas are in the works for future events.

Deb Davies is the committee chairperson . There were no questions.

Glenn Fritzingler suggested a Palm Sunday breakfast.

Pastor's report 2022 : Pastor Cindy White reported that she is thankful for all the prayers, hard work, and positivity she had encountered over the past year at Zion. She had shared that she created a new mission statement and four vision statements that were approved by council.

The Mission and Vision statement is on last page of the brochure. Work on a new pictorial book was put on hold due to concern with remaining pandemic issues.

Pastor Cindy continued to work closely with Mary Ruth Taylor and Sam Caley on the Stewardship Plan. She also worked to establish Miller Keystone blood mobile/bank presence here at Zion. We are waiting to hear when/if they would use our downstairs as a site in 2023

Property Committee 2022 : Micheal Haspe reported on many repairs and upgrades during 2022. The jobs done over 2022 touched on all areas of Zion property such as fence repairs at the cemetery, Roof repairs over Gebert Chapel, Organ repairs, security cameras, sanctuary lighting, kitchen freezer maintenance/repairs, furnace valves, furnace inspection, fire extinguishers, food pantry shelves, updated estimates from Degruy for upcoming remaining exterior projects, and kitchen fire suppression system.

Mark Valentine retired as committee chair effective 1/1/23 but is still active on the committee . Micheal Haspe is the chairperson at this time and is seeking a new chairperson. Mark was acknowledged for the many years of leadership he has provided . Ron Dietrich and Rick Bachman were thanked for their many years of service as cemetery caretakers .

Christian Education : Micheal Haspe reported Sunday School total enrollment 22 students . Teachers are Micheal Haspe, Mary Ruth Taylor, and Tiffany Warden

Confirmation enrollment: 2 ; First Holy Communion : 3

Still working on an adult Sunday School program

75 children attended VBS . Micheal used Cokesbury's 2022 "Food Truck Party" program. Top Chef Mike and DJ Cupcake taught the kids mealtime prayer using 5 fun daily specials . Other activities were Bible explorations, Crafts & missions, Music, and Science. A new program was announced for 2023 .

Fellowship rooms for kids to interact for ½-1 hour after Sunday school. Younger children and older children will have separate rooms.

Questions entertained: Laura Fullmer asked "Who owes and where are we with Capital Campaign ?" Answered : Due to people starting with a 10 year pledge then switching to a 5 year pledge it is going to take some work to get the numbers accurate. All pledge donations were recorded but are showing in 2 different places .

Parish Statistics report : No questions

All reports were accepted on the motion of Sharron Haldeman, seconded by Glenn Fritzing

State of the Congregation :

Attendance and Giving step reports : The reports were discussed .

Sharron Haldeman asked if non givers get a letter? The answer given was that letters did go out. Sharron also pointed out that Synod gets paid per member.

Melody Gensure commented that Communion cards need to be turned in to get credit.

President's 2022 Summary : Micheal Haspe reported that 2022 was a busy and successful year in ministry for Zion as stated throughout the Brochure. He referred to ministry as the fellowship, fun, and memories created as we serve our community, and celebrate being one body of Christ. As there is temptation to focus on finances , 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.

President's 2023 Goals : In 2023 Micheal would like us to be ONE in the body of Christ, always treating each other with dignity, respect, and grace. He felt the "Hotline Verse" for this summer's VBS would be an appropriate motto for Zion in 2023. The Hotline Verse he is referring to is " **So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build us up" (Romans 14:19)**

Micheal for 2023 also challenged all to listen to how God is calling us to service. He said "Use your talents accordingly". Micheal shared that when he passed through the doors at Zion in 2018 after a long absence , he had no idea the adventure God had in store for him. He thanked God, Pastor Cindy White, and this congregation for seeing in him. Other goals of Micheal is to move forward with Stephen's Ministry and to keep youth involved after confirmation.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor's goals 2023:

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

Pastor Cindy announced that seminarian Dillon Epler will be graduating in May .

ADJOURNMENT : Melody Gensure made a motion to adjourn the meeting,
second by Steve Ristilla.

The meeting ended with prayer led by Pastor Cindy

Annual Budget Proposal Meeting Minutes

Day and Date of Meeting: Sunday, Dec.03,2023

Council President Micheal Haspe called the meeting to order.

A quorum was established with 32 members in attendance.

Pastor Cindy White opened the meeting with a prayer.

Micheal Haspe presented a brief overview of the 2024 proposed budget and asked if there were any questions or concerns from those present.

Discussion arose about Pastor's healthcare cost. Questions presented were "Why do we use the company that we use?" and "Can we shop for a better cost?"

Dave Gensure, Treasurer, answered that we follow E.L.C.A. guidelines and Zion does not choose the plan.

Tiffany Warden made a motion to approve the 2024 budget, seconded by Melody Gensure.

The budget was unanimously approved by all present

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carol Hartung, second by Judy Brennan

Submitted respectfully by Ernie Henritz, Council secretary

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N Greenwood Street • Tamaqua, PA 18252 • 570.668.2180 • zionlcof@verizon.net

January 30, 2024

Greetings Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that 2023 is already over. It was another outstanding year of ministering to our community and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Details of Zion's ministry activities are contained in this packet.

I recently began thinking "What does the church mean to you?" By church I refer not to the building, but the people of Zion. The truth is when I am here with all of you, I feel closest to God. It is my most sincere hope that you feel the same way. As a third-generation member of Zion, it brings me joy to remember my family worshipping here, and I enjoy sharing our traditions. Most importantly I feel closest to God when we are sharing fellowship and performing our ministry. Recently a member told me "You were my God sighting this week." Taken back I quickly began searching my mind. What had I done to be worthy of the term "God sighting"? She explained to me that it was the invitation to sit and chat about our Lord over a cup of coffee. This time together made her week. What I will explain to her is that our conversation was as meaningful for me as it was for her. Each one of us is given opportunities through Christ to witness to the Gospel, and make a difference in someone's day.

In 2024 "Let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up" – Romans 14:19

We are so very grateful for everyone that continues regularly to participate in the life of this church. Without you our ministry to each other, and this community would not be possible.

I do feel I need to be honest about the current financial state of the congregation. Last year we were short of meeting our weekly expenses. This does not include the money still needed to complete the exterior restoration project. In total we had to take \$41,000 from the Endowment Fund to pay operating expenses. Thanks to the generous support of our members, endowment fund, culinary crew, and outreach donations, we made it through the year. Now we must prayerfully find new, and innovative ways to raise funds to continue over the next decade and beyond.

I have no doubt that God will give us what we need to continue our ministries here at Zion.

In closing, in 2024 I will be embarking on a new journey in service to Christ. I am excited to share this news with you at the Annual Meeting.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,



Michael Haspe
Congregational Council President
Christian Education Director
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STATISTICS

	2021	2022	2023
Baptized Membership	739	749	764
Confirmed Members	386	387	390
Members received by Baptism (Child)	7	7	9
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0	2
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	4	1	1
New First Communicants	5	3	6
Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer (Baptized)	1	4	3
(Baptized/Confirmed)	1	3	3
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	4	2	14
(Baptized/Confirmed)	4	2	10
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	1	2	0
Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	1	0	1
(Confirmed)	0	0	1
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	6	0	2
(Confirmed)	6	0	2
Member Removed Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0	0
Members who were taken by Death	6	7	10
Non-Member Deaths	8	1	1
Marriages	1	1	1

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

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 - 2023

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
1/22/23	Everlee Quinn Gensure	Keith Gensure & Amanda Gabos
2/26/23	Aurelia Hernandez	McKenzie Ansbach & Raul Hernandez Jr.
3/19/23	Walker Lee Hamm	Corey Hamm & Shellie Witcofsky
4/16/23	Grace Lovetta Carter	Joshua & Mary Carter
4/23/23	Joseph Kyle Voelpel	Adult Baptism
5/7/23	Alaina Koren Oliphant	Kyle V. Olyphant & Madeline Coccio
7/9/23	Mason Hayes Linkhorst	Derek & Amber Linkhorst
10/14/23	Zander Patrick Coleman	Adult Baptism
10/15/23	Amelia Marie Miller	Alesia Casler & Matthew Miller
10/29/23	Lewis Michael Betz	Holly & Francis Betz
11/18/23	Atlas Isaac Weikel	Audrey Rehnert & Kaeleb Weikel

Marriages

Date	Names
4/14/23	Lynn Davies & Chris Rhubright

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
1/18/23	Member	Nancy L. Betz	51	Private
1/30/23	Member	William W. Bechtel	95	2/6/23
2/4/23	Member	Mary L. Koch	97	2/10/23
3/27/23	Member	Warren Schreffler	86	4/1/23
5/17/23	Member	Ida Mae Piccin	88	Private
5/29/23	Member	Allen C. Mace	90	6/3/23
7/27/23	Member	Charles R. Linkhorst	86	7/31/23
8/24/23	Member	Joseph A. Harvilla Jr.	74	8/31/23
11/15/23	Member	Marlin J. Tirpak	84	11/20/23
11/23/23	Non-Member	Carol Ann Moyer	83	Private
12/11/23	Member	Mildred M. Koch	83	12/15/23

Confirmations

Date	Name
5/28/23	Elaina Mae Coleman

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/26/23	Skylar Ansbach
	Darvin Faust
	Gabriella Goho
	Belle Hascin
	Hudson Henritzzy
	Thaddeus Matalavage

Transfer In

Date	Name	From
7/16/23	John Baranovich	St. John Slovak Lutheran, Lansford PA
7/16/23	Cynthia Baranovich	St. Michaels Church, Lansford PA
7/16/23	Jennifer Baranovich	St. John's, Lansford, PA

Affirmation of Faith

Date	Name	Formerly
1/22/23	Joshua, Mary, Evelyn, & Grace Carter	
1/22/23	Madeline Coccio	
7/16/23	Brittany Voelpel	
3/26/23	Gregg, Andrea, Gavin & Grifen Edmonds	
9/19/23	Holly and Francis Betz	

Re-Affirmation of Faith

Date	Name	Formerly
3/26/23	Chris & Olivia Quick	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Transfer Out

Date	Name	To
02/06/2023	Paul Fegley	Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Withdrawn (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name	
3/1/2023	Anthony Saullo Jr.	Per Request
3/1/2023	Dominic Saullo	Per Request



PROPERTY SUMMARY FOR 2023

Property committee: Brian Lawfer, acting chair; Michael Haspe; Bob Maue; Mark Valentine; Pastor Cindy White; Michael Haspe; Joe Volpel; George Taylor

Property team: Mark Valentine; Bob Fisher; Bob Maue; Mike Miller; Charlie Long; Joe Mehalko

JANUARY

- Michael Haspe assumes interim chairmanship of committee

FEBRUARY

- People's Pantry could use painting-new knobs installed
- Handicapped unloading lines need repainted

MARCH

- Mark Valentine reports three burials so far this year.
- George Taylor gave a report on the exterior project's outstanding pledges. The outstanding pledges will not cover the cost of the next phase of the project.

APRIL

- Brian Lawfer reports that mowers and trimmers are ready for use. Additional help is always welcome.
- CRIZ – George Taylor reports that church is not in CRIZ Zone nor is it a tax generating property; both are requirements for funding consideration.
- Michael Haspe has prepared a checklist for the NA leader to address some concerns.
- Small lift currently not working due to issue with upper door mechanism; repair company contacted.

MAY

- Five burials so far this year; Ida Piccin most recent
- Mark Valentine reports that the small lift is operational-both lifts passed recent inspection
- Boiler is off for the summer. Michael Haspe asked value of having a separate furnace for the parsonage.
- Cooking smoke set off the fire alarm in the parsonage. Situation did not require firemen to act.
- Art Connely suggests some changes be made to the fire detection system in the church and parsonage.

JUNE

- Suggested updates to the fire detection system cannot be made with the current system.
- Small lift is not working. Mark Valentine will investigate.

JULY

- Church council approves an updated burial policy.
- Michael Haspe mentioned dampness in the back corner of the building in his office. That area had previously been repaired.
- Pastor purchased standing air conditioner for the office. Joe Volpel will fashion and install proper window fixture. Judy Brennan brought standing unit up from thrift sale for the library. Joe Volpel will install that unit.

AUGUST

- Brian Lawfer reports the cemetery work day went well with 10-12 volunteers working that Saturday and during the following week.
- Men's bathroom toilet repaired by Riegel.
- Fire detection issue-Mark Valentine explained that with the switch from Verizon to a Service Electric phone service, our current fire detection system is no longer able to communicate with the DM2 monitoring service. The two systems are not compatible. Melody has scheduled a visit by a DM2 technician.
- It may be necessary to update our fire detection board. When Mark Valentine asked for an upgrade in 2021, the cost was \$4,500; monitoring and inspection costs were also higher on the upgraded system. We should expect a cost around \$7,000. This is not an issue that can wait for the 2024 budget as the church is not currently being monitored for fire.
- George Taylor said he would alert the finance committee because immediate action is needed at its September meeting. Mark may have updated information at that time.

SEPTEMBER

- Fire alarm system – Committee voted to recommend purchase of new panel and new smoke detectors for \$9,195. Oliver Fire Protection offered alternative to put in a cellular dialer on the existing panel for \$950 plus monitoring fee.

OCTOBER

- Fire alarm issue - Council voted to go with the Oliver alternative but agreed that money from the Piccin annuity should be set aside for an updated fire protection system in the future. New company will be doing the monitoring when dialer is installed.

Glenn Fritzingler made tree stands because tall trees no longer available for sanctuary.

- A window on the Greenwood Street side is in need of repair. Smulligans contacted and the work was done at no cost to the church. Judy Brennan guided the project and sent a thank you to Smulligans.

NOVEMBER

- No meeting/no report

DECEMBER

- Mark Valentine is working with Melody Gensure to get recent burials in Zion's computer records.
- Parsonage garage roof is leaking.
- Mark Valentine is addressing boiler/valve issue – boiler does not shut off—suspects malfunctioning valve-will also check batteries in parsonage thermostat.
- A leak in the ladies' bathroom has been reported. Mark says the water may be coming from walls.

ENDOWMENT FUND 2023 REPORT



At end of 2023 ,I would again like to thank everyone for their yearly support for our ENDOWMENT FUND.

Giving from donations was \$6,195.

Return from our investments was 18.9%, which included stocks, bonds and CD's.

Both of above totaled a gain of \$40,500 for 2023.

Our distribution back in 2023 to our church was \$41,459,

Our committee is involved in monthly reviews on our investments. We also regularly meet with our broker (MCT Banking) to review investment categorizes.

Also ENDOWMENT has distributed back \$521,020 to our church since 2000

Biggest start and continuations that we received was \$355,664 from Bequests'

As the founder 'I am open to any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Weston
Endowment Coordinator

The Endowment Fund committee includes Rochelle Evanousky, Bob Jones, and Steve Ristila.

Zion Finance Committee Report 2023

Zion's Finance Committee is comprised of Robert Jones, Chairperson; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Pastor White; George Taylor; Walter Weston; Rochelle Evanousky; Sam Caley and Matthew Warden.

After dealing with the aftermath of Covid and multiple issues with the building we have seen some improvement ending the year with the budget ahead by \$5,639.79.

Budget Contributions 2023

\$207,592.07

Budget Expenses 2023

\$201,952.28

Budget AHEAD \$5,639.79

Income 2023

\$326,231.18

Expenses 2023

\$259,218.22

AHEAD \$67,012.96

Income 2023 with Campaign Removed

\$269,034.98

Expenses 2023 with Capital Campaign Removed

\$223,718.22

AHEAD \$45,316.76

Included in Income:

Endowment gave \$41,459 to pay for the Church's insurance. Endowment returned their commitment of 4 1/2% of last five year average value of funds for \$21,459 then later added an additional \$20,000 to help pay the bills. Finance thanks Endowment Committee for managing the Church's assets.

Culinary Team. A total of \$12,560 was raised by Culinary activities. We thank the Culinary for all their dedication and hard work.

Thrift Store. This ministry were able to raise \$10,485.72 this past year. Thank you for your efforts!

Annuity. Ida Piccin left the Church an annuity in the amount of \$22,152.31 in September. The entire amount was put into the Improvement Fund to comply with her wishes.

Thrivent. Through the Thrivent Choice Dollar program Zion received \$1,013 last year. We thank all of our Thrivent members for what they have done to help the Church throughout the past year.

The Church received \$571.47 from Boyers cards. Please remember to use these cards when shopping.

Amazon Smiles. The Church received \$154.50 from this, however this program has been discontinued.

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

Pastor Expenses

Pastor Salary	\$38,390.00	\$38,390.04
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Pastor Life Insurance	\$927.00	\$926.52
Pastor Health Insurance	\$23,327.00	\$22,321.56
Pastor H S A	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Pastor Pension	\$5,450.00	\$5,450.16
Pastor Social Security Allowance	\$3,534.00	\$3,533.92
Pastor Continuing Education	\$400.00	\$660.00
Pastor Housing Equity	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
Vacation Supply	\$500.00	\$150.00
Total Pastor Expenses	\$75,758.00	\$73,662.20

Lay Staff Exp

Parish Administrator	\$18,806.55	\$18,640.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$9,995.00	\$9,983.76
Maintenance Sexton/Snow Removal	\$1,224.00	\$72.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$6,420.00	\$6,412.72
Financial Secretary	\$2,836.00	\$2,832.97
Treasurer	\$3,547.00	\$3,542.96
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00	
Director Christian Education	\$600.00	\$599.00
Total Lay Staff Exp	\$43,628.55	\$42,083.41

Administration

Office Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$363.52
Office Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$1,747.53
Mailings	\$1,500.00	\$987.65
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$1,200.00	\$325.65
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Advertising & Media	\$200.00	\$252.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$600.00	
Total Adm. Exp.	\$9,200.00	\$5,376.35

Property

Fuel Oil	\$30,000.00	\$24,653.14
Electricity	\$5,000.00	\$5,910.87
Phone	\$1,400.00	\$1,369.43
Internet	\$1,680.00	\$1,863.37
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$7,500.00	\$1,575.09
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	\$0.00
Sexton Supplies	\$150.00	\$46.69
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$2,500.00	\$2,673.80
Cemetery/Mower Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$581.00
Total Property	\$50,730.00	\$38,673.39

	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED		
Improvement Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Organ Repair Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00

Insurance

Employer Share Taxes	\$5,500.00	\$3,167.93
Insurance	\$16,000.00	\$17,983.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,000.00	\$761.00
Total Insurance	\$22,500.00	\$21,911.93

Worship and Music

Music	\$75.00	\$0.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$2,300.00	\$2,074.37
Communion Supplies	\$550.00	\$802.14
Candles	\$500.00	\$582.36
Flowers/Palms	\$400.00	\$566.15
Bulletins	\$900.00	\$919.13
Acolytes	\$100.00	\$0.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$350.00	\$491.33
Ministry Materials	\$250.00	\$217.00
Piano/Organ		
Maint.	\$850.00	\$830.00
Worship Materials	\$500.00	\$424.10
Music Vacation Supply	\$400.00	\$300.00
Web Cast	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Total Worship & Music	\$8,475.00	\$7,206.58

Christian Education

Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies	\$300.00	\$347.38
Adult Education	\$300.00	\$0.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	\$88.98
Church Council/Executive Council	\$100.00	\$360.63
Vac. Church School	\$1,500.00	\$1,689.72
Total Christian Education	\$2,400.00	\$2,486.71

Stewardship & Evang

Offering		
Envelopes	\$2,500.00	\$3,717.53
Stewardship	\$500.00	\$475.06
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$3,000.00	\$4,192.59

Social Ministry

Steven's Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Total Social Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$0.00

	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS		
Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$304.20
Special Events	\$300.00	\$54.92
Health Benefit Account		
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00
Total Misc Budgeted Accounts	\$650.00	\$359.12
GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS	\$228,871.55	\$201,952.28

Non-Budgeted Misc Accts

ELCA		
Benevolence		\$330.00
World Hunger		\$1,952.00
LWR		\$408.00
Missionary/Joyful Noise		\$1,771.35
Seminary Scholarship		\$0.00
Annuity Expense		
Harvest Home		
Tree of Remembrance Expense		
Loaves & Fishes Ministry Expense		
Congregational Life Expense		\$606.29
Misc Pass Through Expense		\$1,448.80
Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts	\$0.00	\$6,516.44

FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED

Culinary Expenses		\$6,191.03
Helping Hands Expense		\$234.50
Ministerial Expense		\$430.36
Outreach Expense		\$6,690.97
Senior Choir Expense		
Scholarship Fund Expense		\$200.00
Library Fund Expense		
Campership Expense		
Capital Campaign Expenses		\$35,500.00
Cap. Camp. Repay Endowment		
Interest Paid on Endowment		
Mission Fund Expense		
Zion Diaper Fund Expense		\$1,541.50
Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted	\$0.00	\$50,788.36
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$228,871.55	\$259,257.08

WHAT'S OUTREACH?

Outreach ministry is a common practice that helps a church spread God's word and share his love with the community and the world at large.

The church more than any other institution in the world does not exist solely for the sake of its membership. Do we want to be a comfortable church or a Great Commission church? The church exists to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the redeeming factor in a troubled society. Everything we do must be for the purpose of reaching others for Jesus Christ.

Our primary concern should not be growth. It should be missions and ministry for Christ. When we take care of ministering God's Word, He takes care of our growth. The growth of a plant depends on three things—the seed, the soil, and the seasons. Missions and ministry create a climate in the church that makes growth possible. If we are to be passionate in our outreach, we must be involved in life-changing ministries that will touch lives and make a difference.

CULINARY MINISTRY

It is with a sense of accomplishment our culinary team finished 2023 with 18 successful events while serving many from our congregation and community. As we start 2024, we will continue to help build and support the Kingdom of God among us as we build upon our successes. Glenn Fritzing

2023 culinary events

January 1 – New Year's Community Dinner – 98 served; \$91 donations

January 29 – Dinner honoring Mark Valentine – 68 served;

February 11 – Hoagies – 245 served; 50 doz. pierogies; \$1,593

February 24 – Lenten dinner 1 – 124 served; \$1,599

March 10 – Lenten dinner 2 – 126 served; 78 doz. pierogis \$1,561

March 24 – Lenten dinner 3 – 139 served; \$1,669

April 2 - Bring a Friend to Breakfast – 85 served; \$266 donations

April 22 – Hoagies-192 served; \$1,334

May 11 – Pasta dinner; 67 served; \$665

June 3 – Saturday after service picnic – 30 served

June 22 – Strawberry social – 86 served; \$849

July 20 – Benefit ice cream social – 126 served; 1,004 (given to Rescue Squad)

July 27 – Hoagies – 216 served; \$1,512

August 17 – Peach social – 135 served; \$1,104

September – Hoagies – 234 served; \$1,245

September – Pierogis – 225 doz.; \$675

October – Halupkis – 511 sold; \$1,533

November-Filling- 49 pans; 11 quarts; \$665

November – 27 quarts of corn chowder for Community Soup Sale

December – Advent breakfast; 42 eat in; 3 take outs

December-Hoagies- 251 served; \$1,745 (income)

Year total: 1,126 people served meals; 1,138 hoagies; 353 doz. pierogis; 503 halupkis; 49 filling pans; 11 filling quarts; \$17,749; \$357 donations; \$1,004 donated

BLESSING THRIFT SHOP MINISTRY

Blessing Thrift has worked for Zion because it is an outreach that is needed in our community and the surrounding areas. The fellowship it provides with people alone, is priceless. In addition to our sales, we help people in need when asked. A perfect example is a coat given to a little girl recently when her parents could not afford to buy one. Some of our overstocked items, including household things and clothes, go to a mission in Delaware so the ministry serves others outside our immediate area. Blessings Thrift is truly a blessing to our church and all the many people it serves as well as those who make it happen. Judy Brennan

2023 Blessings Thrift events

Feb. 3: 145 shoppers; \$2,052.08
March 3: 133 shoppers; \$1,385.83
March 31: 120 shoppers; \$1,485.83
April – No Blessings sale
May 5 – 125 shoppers; \$1,824.66
June 2 - 104 shoppers; \$2,151.29
July 5 – 141 shoppers; \$1850.29
Aug. 4 – 102 shoppers; \$1,423.01
Sept. – 105 shoppers; \$1,511.54
Oct.6 – 155 shoppers; \$2,319.52
Nov.3 - 181 shoppers; \$2,585.00
Dec. 1 - 143 shoppers; \$1,839.60
Year totals: 1,454 shoppers; \$20,428.65
Next Blessings sale will be March 1, 2024

THE PEOPLE'S PANTRY

Sometimes people are waiting for me when I come to stock the People's Pantry. They'll stand on the corner or wait up the hill until I'm done. I've found that with time, I often get to talk to some of the regulars, and they are so grateful for what we're doing at Zion. I think they are surprised that they are treated with respect. Some are raising grandchildren; some have pets (dogs, cats) they've had for years and are considered "family." An older woman in a wheelchair said she is so grateful because she can't get to the store in winter, but she can get to our food box. A young man who comes to the pantry is so respectful and only takes two items. When he comes, he sometimes brings his dog. He thanks me when I see him because I always put zip lock bags of dog food and cat food in the pantry. His dog is all he has. A woman with a family of six comes and only takes three things. I know the family has a cat, so I always give her zip lock bags of cat food. Taking care of the food pantry is sometimes sad, but it's also rewarding. There are so many in our community who come to our food box and not always to take from it. We have people who regularly donate food even though they are on fixed incomes themselves. They feel like I do, that it's what God wants us to do. If it wasn't for people donating and bringing food, I could never stock the pantry three times a week. Thank you for your support. Arlene Derr

2023 DIAPER DEPOT MINISTRY REPORT

Diaper Depot began in October 2018 and marked its fifth anniversary last October. Another milestone reached in 2023 was the giving of the 100,000th diaper. For five years, Zion's diaper ministry was a community pantry of the Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank. As of January, it is now affiliated with soLVE and the Lehigh Valley Diaper Bank.

Month	Requests	Delivered	Kids served	Diapers given
January	34	26	30	1,540
February	37	26	30	1,430
March	34	27	33	1,460
April	30	25	31	1,510
May	31	25	29	1,670
June	37	27	37	1,660
July	34	28	33	1,620
August 38	30	35	1,650	
September	39	31	35	1,730
October	34	31	39	1,790
November	35	25	32	1,510
December	33	28	35	1,540
2023 totals	416	329	399	19,110
TO DATE	2,758	2,281	3,019	140,970

ZION ONLINE WEBCASTS 2023

Zion started webcasting services in 2017, long before the pandemic with a certain target audience in mind: homebound members with computers or cell phones who simply couldn't get to church. When the pandemic struck, Zion services had already been online for months and months. During the pandemic, Pastor Cindy White began doing daily prayer moments online that meant a great deal to our members as well as others in the community.

Online viewers in 2023

MONTH	MORNING PRAYER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January	219	76	547
February	179	106	481
March	326	81	517
April	171	191	666
May	192	30	438
June	371	48	482
July	315	153	742
August	285	74	679
September	233	79	498
October	200	71	589
November	307	87	506
December	319	62	699
Christmas Eve (2 services)	580 viewers		
2023 totals	3,117	1,059	6,844 (11,020)

ZION WEBSITE

A church's website is its new front door. Studies have shown that many people visit a church after they've made an online visit. With this in mind, Zion launched a new website last July. The project took months to complete. The result is an easier to navigate, more user-friendly site.

Website statistics as of Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

Last 7 days	111 visitors
Last 30 days	490 visitors
Last 60 days	851 visitors
Last 90 days	1,208 visitors
Last 365 days	2,632 visitors
Since start (2017)	6,961 visitors

PHONELIVESTREAM SERVICE REPORT 2023

Not everyone has a computer or feels comfortable with modern online technology, but just about everyone can handle a telephone. Do you know someone who might enjoy connecting with one of our worship services on their home phone or cell phone? Give them one of the "Connect" cards you'll find in the Gathering Room or help them call 570-393-2180. It's a local call. Over 100 Zion members initially received Phonestream calls. They had the option of either subscribing and being called each time a worship service aired or cancelling the call. Currently, six people subscribe and get called when a service or Morning Prayer is ready to begin. An average of our-to-six people listen to a service.

WORSHIP and MUSIC--2023

CHOIR, CANTORS, LECTORS, SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR, COMMUNION
ASSISTANTS, SPECIAL MUSIC



“I believe in Christmas. Do You?” If you were at the early Christmas Eve service this past December, you heard the joyful young voices raised in song asking you this question. My answer to that is a resounding yes!! Along with the confident Christmas knowledge that comes through my faith, I had so many Christmas gifts---all year through. Let me remind you of some of those gifts.

The Senior Choir. For the entire year, these folks share their time and talents. Rehearsing on cold, dark winter nights or hot summer days, they are faithful in their attendance for rehearsals and services. The choir provides leadership for the liturgy and a special message with their anthems. They learn new pieces and sing their favorites in a variety of styles. We are glad to have two new choir members join us this year. The choir helps make my worship here meaningful.

The Cantors. These four people do their part to lead the special sections of our service. I am so grateful for their ability and that they are so dependable because they serve us often.

The Lectors. Zion is blessed to have so many volunteers who are willing to spread the Word of God through their reading of the lessons each week. They take time to prepare at home and then they very reliably follow the schedule to read on Sunday mornings without any reminders from me. What a gift that is to me.

The Sunday School Choir. 20 young voices took part in the Ministry of Music this fall and the Christmas Eve pageant. That is the most we have had in many years. What a bright spot in Zion’s ministry. They practice for a few minutes on Sunday mornings before they attend their class, and with that short amount of time they have done an incredible job. Thank you to parents and teachers and to the youngsters for giving us their zeal to learn and sharing their budding talents with us.

The Communion Assistants. These ministers help Pastor share the wine and prepare the altar each week. We have a second person also help so we can proceed smoothly on both sides of the church. We are asking this year, if possible, for the scheduled assistant to come the week before their date to be the assistant. Thank you for helping Pastor through this service.

The Special Music. Everyone needs a break, and we can give our faithful choir members some vacation time because we have so many talented musicians who will help us by providing special music in the summer, and other times. Hearing the message from these persons gives us a fresh appreciation for their talents. An extra word of thanks goes to Thomas Graham for providing the trumpet music for us at special services.

I do believe in Christmas; and I am so very thankful to all of the people who give me their Christmas gifts all year long. I know I speak for the whole congregation in saying how grateful we are for their talents. How can next Christmas be even better? Join us! We would welcome you to take part in any of the above services.



Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
2023 Christian Education Report
Michael Haspe – Christian Education Superintendent

Sunday School: Total Enrollment: 28

Teachers: Michael Haspe, Susan Lawfer, Julia Lawfer, & Tiffany Warden

Time: 10:15am-11am

In spring 2023 the classes were split into 2 groups. Toddler-3rd grade, & 4th-6th grade. Students learned about the Lenten season, as well as Stations of the Cross. Mary Ruth Taylor retired at the start of summer. Fall term began with Susan & Julia Lawfer as new Sunday school teachers. Pastor Cindy & Michael identified a new Sunday School Curriculum. **“Digging Into The Heart of God”** brings a fresh approach to growing a lifelong relationship with God. As kids explore God's character throughout the Bible, God transforms them from the inside out. With the Heart of God curriculum, kids discover what it means to reflect the heart of God in everyday life. Children spent the Advent season preparing for Ministry of Music, & Christmas with Sandy Mehalko. The children did an outstanding job during both services. We continue to look for new ways to involve the children in our worship, & church life.

Confirmation: Total Enrollment: 5

Teachers: Pastor Cindy White, & Michael Haspe

Time: Thursday Evening 5:30-7pm or Sunday 11:30pm-1pm (Depending on student activities)

Pastor Cindy & Michael identified **“Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation”** as the new Confirmation Curriculum. The curriculum provides study into The Old Testament, Lutheran History & Catechism, New Testament, & Lutheran Living. Colaborate is designed that it can be completed in 1 year.

First Holy Communion: Total Enrollment: 6

Teachers: Pastor Cindy White, & Michael Haspe

Date/Time: November 5, 12, 19 2023 – 11:30am-1pm

We were blessed to have 6 students complete the requirements to receive First Holy Communion. This is the largest number we've had in several years. Pastor & Michael are actively seeking a fresh curriculum for First Holy Communion.

Kid's Fellowship/Youth Fellowship: Following Sunday School students and friends are welcome and encouraged to enjoy fellowship in one of our two age appropriate fellowship rooms! The Kid's Fellowship room is designed for Toddlers through 3rd grade. Donations of toys to freshen up the room, and keep activities interesting are appreciated. We are currently in need of girls toys. The Youth Fellowship room is a place where young adults can gather to work on crafts, play games, read, play video games, or work on their train layout. Donations of crafting materials, board games, train supplies, & young adult related activities are appreciated.

Time: 11am-12pm

Youth Group: In 2023 we were blessed to have Brian Lawfer begin forming a Youth Group for our Middle School/High School aged members. The Youth had their first Fundraiser selling Pretzels & Homemade Chili Dogs during the Heritage Festival. They have set a goal to be able to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024.

Advisor: Brian Lawfer

Vacation Bible School:

Director: Michael Haspe

Average Nightly Attendance: 55

Date/Time: June 12-16, 2023 5:30-8pm

This year's VBS was HERO Hotline! By Cokesbury. During VBS participants met at Hero Hotline Headquarters and learned from puppet friend "Super Meer" the Hotline Verse: "So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. – Romans 14:19", and the Daily Hotline Tips. Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, & Show Grace. Heroes enjoyed Crafts & Missions with Judy Brennan, Bible Explorations with Deb Davies, Music with Beth Marcavage & Ashley Heatter, Science with Ells Davis, and Reflections Snack Time with Pastor Cindy. VBS closed on Day 5 with a Family Assembly & Fellowship Dinner. Over the last several years the Fellowship Dinner has been a key part in getting to know the families that attend our VBS program.

In 2024 children will embark on another Adventure at "Camp Firelight". June 17-21, 2024 from 5:30-8:30pm. I was honored in having served on the review committee for the publisher of this program. Having a deep background of the program I feel this year's program has the potential to bring a lot of children to know and trust in the Lord.

Camp Firelight is a Summer Camp Adventure with God!

Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every Camper's favorite summer activities! During each assembly session, Campers join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug puppet, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, Campers see Counselor Sam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sam and our Campers explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

Through these stories, this program will teach us about people in the Bible who experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God. In addition, it will teach us to trust that God will go with us, lead the way, share wisdom, to give us peace, and spark joy as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our own lives and in the lives of others. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Camp Callout:

Whenever I'm afraid I put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3

Daily Firelight Focus:

Trust God to Go with Us!

Trust God to Lead the Way!

Trust God to Share Wisdom!

Trust God to Give us Peace!

Trust God to Spark Joy!



A huge THANK YOU to all the people who help me in making VBS possible. This ministry is very important to me, as I was a child who had my life changed by Vacation Bible School. Your continuous support of time, talent, monetary donations, and most importantly PRAYER, are appreciated.

References: cokesburyvbs.com

group.com/childrensministry

GENEROSITY

While we did not have a formal generosity campaign in 2023, we did follow several suggestions from our consultants.

We suggested to the finance committee that quarterly updates be given the congregation which was done. What those reports consistently show is that without the extra financial support of culinary events, Blessing Thrift sales and gifts from the endowment fund, Zion's giving cannot currently support its ministry.

We also ended the year with a request for members to complete an intent card for 2024 stating what they intended to give. We sent out 165 letters with cards and as of Jan. 24 received 21 cards from our members.

Our generosity goals remain the same: we strive to create a culture of generosity at Zion in which members give in a PLANNED way that is absolutely a PRIORITY and at a PROGRESSIVE PERCENTAGE.

Planned – members designate a set amount in their budgets (not what they happen to have when they come to church). This is one benefit of an intent card. It encourages members to give thought and prayer as to what they are actually able to give in the coming year. Planned giving is also a consistent giving. Setting up a reoccurring gift on Zion's online giving page is an easy way to accomplish a planned, consistent gift.

Priority – members give to God before other expenses or expenditure. Making generosity and giving a priority may be more of a spiritual issue. We see giving as more of a priority in our lives as we move along our spiritual journey and grow as a disciple of Christ.

Percentage – members give a percentage amount, not by dollars because some people give the same amount dollar-wise year after year. When income increases, giving can follow when a percentage is used.

Progressive – members increase their percentage on a regular basis because just as their own expenses increase every year, so do those that support Zion's life-changing ministries.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” **2 Corinthians 9: 6-7, 11**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Tamaqua PA
Giving Step Report: 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Giving Range	Count	Total Given
\$0.00 - \$0.00	Count: 76	\$0.00
\$0.01 - \$52.00	Count: 45	\$1,062.29
\$52.01 - \$104.00	Count: 12	\$959.00
\$104.01 - \$156.00	Count: 10	\$1,346.00
\$156.01 - \$208.00	Count: 9	\$1,706.00
\$208.01 - \$260.00	Count: 8	\$1,890.31
\$260.01 - \$312.00	Count: 10	\$2,915.04
\$312.01 - \$364.00	Count: 4	\$1,325.00
\$364.01 - \$416.00	Count: 3	\$1,210.00
\$416.01 - \$468.00	Count: 6	\$2,599.63
\$468.01 - \$520.00	Count: 2	\$992.00
\$520.01 - \$780.00	Count: 16	\$10,352.03
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	Count: 6	\$5,038.19
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	Count: 5	\$5,884.89
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	Count: 7	\$9,762.64
\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00	Count: 8	\$14,739.13
\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00	Count: 11	\$25,747.03
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	Count: 3	\$8,140.00
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	Count: 7	\$23,734.47
\$3,640.01 - \$4,160.00	Count: 1	\$4,100.00
\$4,160.01 - \$4,680.00	Count: 1	\$4,617.00
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	Count: 1	\$5,080.00
\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00	Count: 2	\$11,138.32
\$5,720.01 - \$6,240.00	Count: 1	\$5,936.00
> \$6,240.01	Count: 2	\$19,285.83

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.