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## **2017 Letter from Pastor Ann Paynter**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

St. Paul wrote, “We are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.” This central message of the Gospel was lifted up again and again in the last year. As we commemorated the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation and served Our Lord, we reimagined what God’s unconditional love and grace means for us.

What a tribute year it was! We began with a moving concert by the Muskingham College Choir. Later, we remembered the Reformation with Rick Steves’ travel documentary on the Luther lands and an evening at the movies with at least 100 who gathered to see the “Luther” documentary. We relished festival worship on October 29<sup>th</sup> and then joined other local Roman Catholics and Protestants for a time of Common Prayer.

Our many and varied ministries continued with strength. The Crossways Bible study has given Wayne County Lutherans an opportunity to study the Bible intensively for a second year. Zion made large gifts to the ELCA’s 40 Days of Giving, Project Day through Lutheran World Relief and Habitat for Humanity’s Ecumenical House. We tried new things with God’s Work Our Hands Day clean-up at the fair, a Bereavement Support Group, and Sunday afternoon services at Danbury Woods.

We have challenges, as does any congregation. There were 92 people who participated in the Cottage Meetings in the spring. Now we are called to follow through on the energy and ideas that came from that time of conversation. We have done many improvements to our physical facilities in recent years (many of these projects being backed by a generous anonymous donor). Now we have an opportunity to ask what it means for Zion to minister in Jesus’ name. We have the opportunity to ask, how does our life together feed our members’ faith?

I am always grateful for our staff and the good work that they do all year. I am also thankful for the leadership of our church council and Bill Dannley, our retiring council president.

May God bless us in 2018!

Peace, Pastor Ann Paynter



## **Welcome from Council President**

As I welcome you to our 2018 Annual Meeting, I would like for you to consider that Zion Lutheran Church means different things to each of us...

LOOK at ZION: our beautiful sanctuary, newly renovated Luther Lounge, beauty of the altar flowers, smiling faces of God's children of all ages

SMELL ZION: coffee (after all, we ARE Lutherans!), freshly- made pancakes for Fat Tuesday, home-cooked dinners for DZ@6

LISTEN to ZION: Lessons, the Gospel, spiritually motivating sermons, and OH! our amazing vocal and hand bell choirs, Coffee House Praise Group

FEEL ZION: warm hands while sharing God's peace, the emotion of a baptism, how your heart over-flows with love (and maybe your eyes with tears) when you hear a favorite hymn

As incoming president of your Church Council, I am eager to rediscover Zion by gaining new perspectives, and I invite you to join me on this spiritual journey.

"I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." – E. Stanley Jones

God Bless You,

Mary McMillen



## **Cabinet**

Since 2012 Zion has asked leaders in various ministries to be responsible for teams that carry out family ministry, Inreach and outreach ministries, mutual ministry, operations ministry, and worship ministry. The heads of these teams form a cabinet that offers programming, special events and day to day discipleship at Zion. This allows us to be responsive to ministry needs and careful with details without asking the pastor or church council to micro-manage. Church Council is then able to work with policies, fiscal management and creating vision for Zion. The cabinet meets once a month on the second Tuesday. The leadership of each meeting is shared on a rotating basis.

Family Ministry Team- Tom McFadden  
Inreach/Outreach Ministry Team- Ginny Leighty  
Mutual Ministry Team- Mary McMillen  
Operations Ministry Team- Don Bogner  
Secretary/administrator- Beth Wengerd  
Worship and Music Team- VACANT POSITION



## **Church Council**

President: Bill Dannley  
Vice President: Dave Picking  
Secretary: Susan Mykrantz  
Treasurer: Brett Burkey  
Endowment Treasurer: Scott Schroer  
Financial Secretary: Judi Stock

Members:  
Todd Hauser/ Dan Shuman  
Michael Howard  
Gloria Mackey  
Mary McMillen  
Karolyn Miller  
Tim Nolt  
Randy Wengerd  
Josephine Wright  
Pamela Yarnell

The Church Council serves as the board of directors for the church. The Church Council's ongoing work includes:

- Reviewing procedures and programs of churchwide units and offices to assure that churchwide purposes, policies and objectives are being fulfilled.
- Acting on proposals, resolutions and policies, subject to review by the Churchwide Assembly.
- Shaping relationships between the churchwide organization and independent, cooperative and related Lutheran organizations.
- Submitting budget proposals to the Churchwide Assembly.
- Arranging the processes for all elections as specified in the ELCA's constitution.
- Establishing committees and nominating or electing members as necessary to carry out functions assigned to the Church Council.
- Reporting its actions to the Churchwide Assembly.

The Church Council with its day-to-day responsibilities is a vital aspect of how we strive to do God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect and partnerships that share a common vision.



## **2017 Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Ann Paynter

Parish Musicians: Jeffrey & Daphne Dexter

Bookkeeper: Marianna Lehr/ Kathy Ridenour

Administrative Assistant: Joellen J. Fields

Custodian: Lisa Yeater

Nursery Attendant: Cindy Hauser

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Courtney Nolt





**Membership Summary:**

**Members Received: Affirmations of Faith, Baptisms, New Members.**

**Members Removed: Deaths, Relocated.**

**Marriage(s)**

11 Members Received

*0 Affirmations of Faith*

*0 Adult Baptisms*

*5 Child Baptisms*

Leah Minkin	04/13/2017
Callen King	08/13/2017
Reed Leighty	08/13/2017
Raegan Terakedis	08/13/2017
Nora Golias	10/08/2017

*6 New Members*

Anita Kesner	01/29/2017
Allison Kesner	01/29/2017
Gilbert Doan	09/24/2017
Andres Fodor	09/24/2017
Laura Timothy	09/24/2017
Charles Timothy	09/24/2017

9 Members Removed

*7 Deaths*

William Kesner	02/27/2017
Larry Wile	03/24/2017
Art Oswald	04/16/2017
Ralph Boyens	07/27/2017
Ernest Harvey	07/30/2017
Albert Spradley	11/13/2017
Frances Bonitz	12/06/2017

*2 Relocated*

Jim Rycik
Mary Rycik

Church records show **469 baptized members** at the close of 2017.

(2015: 469 + 5 Members Received 2016 – 7 Members Removed 2016= 467)

(2016: 467 + 11 Members Received 2017 - 9 Members Removed 2017= 469)

*1 Marriage*

Joann Renee Hershberger to Jacob Alexander Brenneman	08/05/2017
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## **Ministry Team Reports**

### **Family Ministry Team Overview**

**Tom McFadden, Team Coordinator**

The Family Ministry Team includes Christian education and youth programs and activities. This Team has responsibilities for the Nursery, Sunday school for children, including Vacation Bible School, and adult education known as the Adult Forum. Both the Children and the Adults have classes each Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30. The Nursery is available on Sunday for both worship services and during the Sunday school hours. As part of Christian Education, we also include the Library that contains books and DVDs for all ages that are available to the congregation. Finally, this Team also includes Zion's Women's Group, WELCA, which includes a variety of social and service activities. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of any of these groups, or for more information, please contact me at 330-345-5978 or 330-749-2582.

### **Christian Education Team**

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Studies** Rev. Ann Paynter, Pastor

All students of the Bible are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings for study of the Bible. We meet for one hour from 11 am to noon in the Luther Lounge Room 200. We are interested in better knowledge of the content of the Bible and how God's Word applies to us today. Most studies run from four to six weeks. In the last year we used studies by Adam Hamilton on Joseph and Moses, and a study on the Servant Songs of Isaiah. Newcomers are welcome.

#### **Sunday Morning Christian Education:**

##### **Adult Forum** Jim Rycik & Charles Stock, Leaders

In conjunction with the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation, we began a study of Martin Luther from the beginning of his career up to his final split with the Catholic Church. The second half of the course dealt with the differences between Lutheran beliefs and practices and those of other protestant faiths. While our numbers remain small, we have learned a great deal which has strengthened our faith by providing new insights.



### **Sunday Morning Christian Education continued...**

#### **Catechism** Rev. Ann Paynter, Pastor

Young people from grades seven through ten are welcome to attend catechism classes on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 am. Exceptions to the age limits can be made. Catechism prepares young students for confirmation by teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments with a focus on Luther's Small Catechism. We also discuss the history of the church, discipleship, knowledge of the Bible and any other questions of interest. The idea is to encourage those in catechism to prepare for an adult life of faith. After a period of two years of study, worship and service, confirmation is scheduled on Pentecost or All Saint's Sunday.

#### **Sunday School/ Children's Church** Courtney Nolt, Coordinator

We did a family bingo event and a crafternoon event which were both highly attended, with about 20 people at each event. Our Sunday school numbers were down this year with around 5 kids on any average Sunday. We used the Lectionary based Sunday school that we had established in 2016. Since numbers were so low we did more group classes than we had in the past. We did a rake and run this year and raked leaves two different Sundays for members of our congregation who could not do it themselves. We had a group of around 10 of us each Sunday. We made cookies for our sick and shut in at West View Manor and delivered them before Christmas. We had two children deliver cookies.

#### **Nursery** Cindy Hauser

The number of children in the nursery during worship picked up due to more young families attending services. Help was also given to the children's Sunday school.



**Library** Kim Long, Librarian

Zion's Library had many donated items cataloged and shelved, including Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, and Children's material (DVD's, books). More things will be added as they are "discovered" in the cabinets in the Library. It was noted that many books appear to be "missing" as observed by looking at the number of cards left from patrons who checked them out years ago. Members should check their shelves at home to make sure they do not have anything belonging to Zion's Library! Hopefully, more items will be found as the Library continues to be searched and reorganized. Check out the books on the display counter as they periodically change. Everyone is encouraged to come and browse the Library space to see what might capture their interest.

**Women's Ministries- Augsburg, Eisleben, Rebekah Circles**

Three women's circles continue to meet for prayer, study and fellowship on a monthly basis. Zion Women's Ministry Committee is in charge of organizing large, fellowship events for women each year. A Daughters of Zion Spring Fling Tea was held on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The program was "Tea Cup Treasures" by Rev. Pam Kelly. Then the Christmas Magic Gala was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. The auction raised \$2,033.00, which was given to Zion's Food Pantry. The Christmas Downtown Church Tour on Friday, December 1, 2017 was also organized by the committee.

Committee members:

Mary Ann Post, Facilitator

Jan Wagner, Treasurer

Norma Fry

Cindy Nolt

Tina Ramsier



## **Inreach /Outreach Ministry Team Overview**

**Ginny Leighty: Team Coordinator**

### **INREACH**

#### **Bereavement Committee** Pat Drager and Jan Wagner

When a family decides to have the funeral at Zion, they may opt to have meal prepared and served in our Fellowship Hall following the service. In 2017, we prepared food for three funerals, serving 225 people.

#### **Communion Deacons** Julie Mennes

Julie along with two other persons alternate their visits to offer communion to our homebound and shut in members, sharing this responsibility with Pastor Ann.

#### **Evangelism/ Greeters** Julie Mennes

Julie coordinates with our Sunday greeters to have visitors sign our guest book and record an address. She then follows up with a written note to acknowledge their visit and invites them to return. She also records attendance each week, helping us to be aware of a members absence.

#### **Fellowship Committee** Cindy Nolt

The fellowship committee hosted a reception for The Faculty Recital in January, the 'Love Is' dinner and a Breakfast at Zion in February, they assisted with the five Lenten soup suppers in March and April, served breakfast after the outdoor service at the O.A.R.D.C. and hosted another reception for the Downtown Church Walk in December, when hundreds of guests visited Zion.

#### **Glory Walkers- Relay for Life Team** Cindy Nolt and Tina Ramsier

Nineteen members, seven of whom are cancer survivors! Their fund raisers included "dining to donate" at El Campesino, BW3, Zoup, and Applebees. They also raised funds by selling Lerch's donuts, hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, selling hanging flower baskets, hosting a Tastefully Simple party and a bake sale, and sold tickets to a Cleveland Indians game, raising \$5,489.00.



**Men of Zion Lutheran Church** Al Spradley and Bill Buchwalter

The gentlemen of Zion met occasionally to play cards and for fellowship. They hosted “Trunk or Treat” in October and graciously remembered the ladies of the congregation with a carnation on Mother’s Day and recycled current magazines to many “waiting rooms” in the city. They also, in memory of Al Spradley sent catered trays to the grieving family of Al Spradley after his passing.

**Men’s Lunch Bunch** Stan Post

We meet once a month at various restaurants around town. We average 8 to 10 guys a month. This is just a time to eat, and have fellowship with other guys at Zion.

**Tape Ministry** Russell Conrad and Tim Nolt

These men are responsible for recording each Sunday’s Traditional Worship service. Once tape copies are made the tapes are then delivered by volunteers, to any homebound or shut in member who would like one.

**Women’s Lunch Bunch** MaryAnn Post

The Women’s Lunch Bunch enjoys eating lunch at a different restaurant once a month.



## **OUTREACH**

### **DZ@6 Outreach Ministry**

This is an outreach to the community to **Discover Zion!** Meal and Worship Service. This is a Sunday evening meal offered at 6:00pm. All are welcome. Members of Zion provide the food for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and also every other 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. On the other 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Peace Lutheran in Ashland provides the meal. On the third Sunday, St Peter's Lutheran from New Pittsburg and Salem Lutheran from Madisonburg, alternate providing the meal. On the fifth Sunday the meal is provided by the Old Stone Church from West Salem. Attendance at these free weekly meals averages between 60 and 70 people. Pastor Ann usually presides over the weekly community outreach worship service starting at 6:15pm which includes communion. Attendance is 20 to 30 people.

### **Food Pantry** Cheryl Oswald and Linda Roberts

The Food Pantry is open from 5 to 5:30pm each Sunday. The bags of food contain 16 food items and a package of toilet tissue. The number of bags given out varies from 5 to 25 bags depending on the time of the month. This DZ and food ministry continues to be self-funded by members of the congregation.

### **Panera Bread** Cheryl Oswald

Every Saturday evening, a member of Zion picks up all the leftover bread, cookies and other pastry from Panera Bread. Forty bags of this donation are packaged and included with the bags of groceries from the Food Pantry. This food ministry involves at the very least, twenty people every week, not including the other persons who provide the food each week.



### **Project Day** Mary Bricker

The ladies of Project work throughout the week and meet on Thursday mornings to cut, assemble, tie and sew quilts amongst other tasks. They also set up beautiful displays in the glass case outside the church office. They sent to Lutheran World Relief:

- 70 handmade quilts
- 100 school kits
- 100 personal care kits,
- 4 sewing kits

Many hands made light work of the boxing and packing of these items getting them ready to be picked up!

### **Social Ministry/ Non Profits** Martha Junkin

Social Ministry – God’s Work, Our Hands –the grace filled response this past year from our church family has been a blessing to all; participants and recipients alike.

Their projects were:

- soup and bowls for People to People Ministries in January,
- Lent 40 Days of Giving to ELCA Hunger Relief \$5207.40,
- thirty people from Zion participated in the July 15<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity Ecumenical Build,
- \$5456.27 given to Habitat in Wayne Co.,
- twelve members celebrated ELCA’s God’s Work, Our Hands day by doing “Trash Detail” in September at the Wayne County Fair,
- 26 bell ringers collected funds for the Salvation Army in November at Buehler’s Towne Market,
- over 50 gifts including gift cards were given to the People to People Ministries Toy Project and we helped recruit volunteers to assist parents in selecting gifts for their children.





**Scouts** Tom McFadden, Chartered Organization Representative for Zion's Pack and Troop 65

This past year the scouts were very busy. Both the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop have new leaders. Cassie Badillo is the new Cubmaster and the new Scoutmaster is Robert Cunningham.

In the Boy Scout troop three boys earned the rank of Eagle Scout. These were Ben Bower, Jesse Sayre and Corbin Lanker. Also, several other are working on this rank and are close to finishing all requirements. Corbin is the Scout who managed the construction of the new utility shed behind the Warehouse. Ben managed the construction of an overlook platform on the handicapped trail at Wooster Memorial Park and Jesse managed the building of a bridge at the Isaac Walton League

In addition to the week long summer camp at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation located in Northern Carroll County and monthly camping locally, the troop visited the Summit in West Virginia for the national Jamboree and also went white water rafting on the New River.

Two totem poles were found buried under the grandstand at the fairgrounds. One was dated 1930 and the other 1940. The earlier one showed that Troop 65 was founded in 1919. This was earlier than we originally thought. Next year will mark 100 years of our commitment to the Boy Scouts.

The Cub Pack was active as well. They put up flags for the Rotary Parade of Flags and visited the Fire station, took in a baseball game at the Akron Rubber Ducks and visited Nursing Homes during the Christmas holidays.



### **Prayer Ministry Team Overview**

#### **Birthday Greetings** Irene Rickett

Greetings are phoned to each member of Zion on their birthday. Eleven persons do this on a monthly basis. If you did not receive a call, please contact the office to update your birthdate and contact information (address, phone numbers, and email addresses).

#### **Prayer Cards** Ginny Leighty

Prayer Cards are prepared each week for persons on our intercessory prayer list. These are signed by members attending the Coffee House worship service and/ or the Traditional worship service, then mailed to recipients.

#### **Prayer Chain** Irene Rickett and Eleanor Harvey

These, plus ten additional members pray every day for each person on the prayer list. To be added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the monthly Prayer Coordinator listed in the weekly Sunday morning bulletins, Zion's website, and the VOICE monthly newsletter.

#### **Prayer Shawl** Sue Furno

This ministry is in need of volunteers. At this time, only Sue Furno is knitting and/or crocheting our prayer shawls. She also does this for Augsburg Lutheran Church. These shawls are then given to anyone needing or wanting a wonderful "wrap" made with love and prayers.

### **Mutual Ministry Team Overview**

Mutual Ministry Cabinet is dormant; no report.



**Operations Ministry Team Overview** Don Bogner, Operations Chairman

Under the able leadership of Pastor Ann, Zion Lutheran Church of Wooster made continued positive growth in 2017. Buoyed by the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's break from the Catholic Church, Zion celebrated with other area Lutheran Churches and St. Mary's Catholic Church to recognize the fact that Lutherans and Catholics have more traits in common than differences.

2017 was a year for successful financial stewardship. By no means, can Zion be satisfied with our current financial position. However, we managed to stay successfully within our budget constraints and keep current on our payables. Generally speaking 2017 was a breakout year for the federal government from an economic standpoint, After 8 years of 2% growth, the first two quarters of 2017 represented an average of 3% annual growth with a growth of 4% the third quarter and a projected 5% growth the fourth quarter. The generally healthy state of the national economy has a direct bearing on the financial health of Zion, particularly in the endowment sector. Robust third and fourth quarters have helped Zion's investment portfolio. 2017 actually beat all federal financial forecasts and we hope that the upward trend will continue into 2018. Brett and Scott will have separate annual financial reports.

In closing, the best days of the Zion Lutheran Church of Wooster are still ahead of us. After celebrating our 175th Anniversary in 2016 and the 500th Anniversary of Luther's Reformation in 2017, Zion has the momentum to grow and prosper ..... as found in the ZLC hymnal ..... "on Christ the rock I stand.... all other land is sinking sand"..... God Bless !!



**Mougey Family Archives** Cheryl Abernathy, Chairperson

Zion's Archive Dept. has continued to catalog, file and store the history of the church. Cheryl started and maintained a program to share Zion's storied history with the readers of Zion's Voice. Hopefully, the articles highlighting Zion's treasures have proven interesting for the congregation. Cheryl also presented Zion's history several times in Zion's display cases across from the church office. The archives office is also attempting to update and categorize the many memorial gifts Zion has received over the many decades. Again, we would like to thank the Mougey Family for donating the funds to create and organize Zion's treasures.

**Communications** Susan Mykrantz, Chairperson

Susan has handled our communications chores for several years and does a great job. Susan's main activity is the preparation of Zion's monthly newsletter, The Voice. However, she is also responsible for any outside announcements and newspaper advertising, etc. Again, I say, Susan is quiet, capable and efficient and if Susan's happy ..... Zion's happy !!..... P.S. Don't miss the deadline of The Voice.

**Display Case** Chairperson Needed

We still miss the creative energy chaired by Julie Mennes and Karolyn Miller to keep Zion's display cases informative and current. Again, the call goes out to a creative person ... we need help !!

**Endowment Report** Scott Schroer, Endowment Treasurer

Report on following page.



## Zion Endowment As of 12/31/17

Account Description	Maturity	Value 12/31/16	Value 12/31/17	Year-to- Year Difference
First Merit (Checking Acct)	On Demand	117,331	154,948	37,617
First Merit (Investment Acct)	On Demand	416,905	466,798	49,893
WCCF	On Demand	79,505	88,040	8,535
GRAY (JP Morgan)	Restricted	335,178	374,109	38,931
OVERHOLT (PNC)	Restricted	3	-	(3)
SCOTT (Key)	Restricted	63,943	70,469	6,526
Paul Schmidt Note	Workout	16,400	15,200	(1,200)
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,029,265</b>	<b>1,169,564</b>	<b>140,299</b>
Thrivent Loan Balance		152,837	145,699	(7,138)

**NOTES:**

- 1) Thrivent Loan payments are being taken from First Merit checking account.
- 2) WCCF has \$40,000 earmarked for Music (future organ restoration) with the remaining balance available for Capital Improvements.
- 3) Contributions of \$50,000 was used to repair the roof, repair the ceiling in the Sanctuary, remodeling room 200, and remodeling the bathroom.
- 4) Interest income of \$25,000 was used to support the General Operating account.

Any questions, please contact Scott Schroer, Endowment Treasurer



**Finance Committee/ Financial Report(s) Brett Burkey, Treasurer**

**2017 Treasurer's Report**

**1/18/18**

Financial Condition Summary

In 2017, the church continued to do an excellent job of adhering to the operating budget. Budgeted operating expenses were \$377,218, while actual operating expenses were \$330,815. This is the result of good stewardship on behalf our operating teams\committees. (Approximately \$40,000 of this difference was due to a duplication of the Benefits budget).

As in some recent years, the estimated contributions to the General Operating Fund fell short of budget. In 2017, the shortfall was significant: Budgeted contributions were \$351,000, while actual contributions were \$302,812.

To help offset the shortfall in contributions, a \$25,000 transfer from the Endowment (income, not principle) was approved by Council this past Fall. The sum of these events produced an operating deficit (loss) of \$2,387, compared to the budgeted deficit of \$26,218.

The operating cash balance was \$24,346 at year end, down from \$29,311 at 12/31/ 2016. Restricted cash for Special Ministries was \$73,601 at 12/31/17.

General Operating Notes

- Actual Building Maintenance costs were \$21,115, compared to budget of \$10,000. Additional building maintenance \ capital improvement costs of \$7,849 were funded by restricted (special ministry) donations. The Endowment also directly paid for certain capital expenses which were funded by an anonymous \$50,000 donation to the Endowment.
- An initial donation of \$1,000 was made to start a special ministry fund to renovate the lower level women's restroom.



**Finance Committee/ Financial Report(s) continued... Brett Burkey, Treasurer**

Looking forward to 2018

The General Operating cash balance has been trending lower than preferred. In effort to build the general operating balance back up, budgets for 2018 were frozen at 2017 levels, including salaries and wages. No increase in spending is budgeted for 2018.

2018 contributions were forecasted to the level needed to cover estimated costs. Based on recent history, achieving this level of giving to the general fund will be difficult, and future transfers from the Endowment income may be needed.



**God's Gardeners** Nancy Tanner, Coordinator

- Nancy Tanner - Coordinator
- Roland Tanner
- Elaine Jentes
- Cheryl Oswald

**Our Mission** is to create and maintain landscaping in front of and along the north side of Zion.

**Projects included**

- ✓ Cleaning flower beds of debris (weeds, dead flowers, and misc metal stakes)
- ✓ Trimming bushes, shrub
- ✓ Edging, weeding, and mulching in beds
- ✓ Planting geraniums donated by church members
- ✓ Fertilizing plants and grass
- ✓ Spreading topsoil where needed along walk and (street yet to be done)
- ✓ Reseeding grass
- ✓ Watering daily
- ❖ We also placed luminaries in front of Zion for the annual 'Candlelight Church Walk' – the first weekend of December.
- ❖ We alert staff of needs or issues of concern we encounter. ( new flag was needed- old rotted utility pole was dangerously leaning near sidewalk and parking area, and handicap signs are in need of repair)

**Needs** - We had no funding available – so all projects were paid for by Nancy and Elaine. Expenses included – mulch, topsoil, grass seed, fertilizer (weed/feed for grass), and plant food.

We will need those items again this year and it would be nice to have a new hose in front area as current one would not accommodate the nozzles for fertilizing and spraying /sprinkling water.





**Personnel Committee** Judi Stock, Chairperson

As of November, 2017, Zion has a full slate of personnel. Linda Halterman was recently hired to replace Courtney Nolt as Children's Ministry Coordinator. During 2017, the personnel committee has also performed its employee evaluations to the satisfaction of the committee. Zion and its personnel seem to be clicking in a positive manner.

**Property Committee** Karl Emler, Chairman

With the exception of our salaries and wages, the property committee is responsible for the majority of Zion's annual expenses. Ignoring, the reoccurring monthly maintenance items, Zion's major projects were: the refastening and painting of the ceiling over the alter and chancel area of the sanctuary; finishing the completion of the LED lighting replacement throughout the church; finishing the remodeling and upgrading of Zion's restrooms on the second floor and last but not least, purchasing new tables and chairs for our Activities Center (red warehouse) and Council meeting room, a new color printer for the church office, two new office chairs, the painting and refurbishing of Room 200, including but not limited to, new flooring from Zion's rear entrance through Room 200 and new carpeting. Sometimes it's the little things that count..... the Property Committee negotiated a trash pickup for every two weeks rather than every week at a savings of approximately \$2400 per year. Barring unforeseen budget restraints, the wish list for capital improvements for 2018, include: siding the south and east walls of the "Warehouse"; placing a new roof on the pavilion east of the "Warehouse"; replacing the chapel air conditioner and completing the painting of the sanctuary ceiling. A very prominent improvement to the front of Zion is a new, bright and shiny, display sign ..... a much needed improvement!!



### **Property continued...**

In thanking Chairman Karl and his entire committee for a job well done, Operations would be remiss if we did not recognize Mr. and / or Ms. ANONYMOUS for helping Zion keep pace with the never ending struggle to keep Zion's physical plant in acceptable condition. In the past three years, Zion has made approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 worth of improvements to our church, out buildings and the exterior, all of which were made possible by the generous donations from ANONYMOUS donors. These are improvements not found within Zion's annual budget..... Zion has been blessed with a congregation that has seen a need and rose to the occasion..... Thank you very much!!

### **Stewardship Report** Steve Thornton, Chairman

Under the leadership of Steve the Zion Stewardship Campaign reached another successful completion in November, 2017. Understanding that the congregational stewardship pledges are the vehicle which drives our annual operating budget, Steve and his committee have once again fulfilled their mission. We are anticipating a very workable budget for Zion in 2018. Thanks Steve and the generosity of the entire congregation of Zion Lutheran Church for a job well done !!

### **Technology Report** Chairperson Needed

John Collier has held steady and fast as acting Chairperson. 2017 saw Pastor Ann receive a much needed computer upgrade and Zion's closed circuit congregational announcements system has also been working quite well. With John's help, we are now upgrading our computer / projector system in Room 100 to allow for better programming for our nontraditional service and youth programs. All other pieces of office equipment are functioning satisfactorily . A hearty thank you to Joellen Fields for preparing Zion's Glad Tidings and other in house publications. There is a lot of work involved with publishing a weekly news piece such as Glad Tidings and Joellen is up to the task !!

Treasurer



## **Worship & Music Ministry Team Overview** Daphne Dexter

### **Coffee House Worship 8:45am**

Tom Long, Coffee House Music  
Rev. Ann Paynter, Pastor  
Martha Bollinger, Worship Team  
Patrick Secrist, Worship Team

### **Traditional 10:45am (Summer hours were at 10:00am)**

Dan Drager, Acolytes  
Martha Junkin, Altar Guild  
Susan Hilbert, Communion Stewards  
Jeffrey & Daphne Dexter, Parish Musicians  
Joellen Fields, Greeters  
Kim Long, Lectors  
Rev. Ann Paynter, Pastor  
Larry Drager, Ushers

### **Discover Zion (DZ@6)**

Rev. Ann Paynter, Pastor



## **Highlights of 2017**

### January

- New members (Anita and Allison Kesner) were received on January 29, followed by a fellowship reception.

### February

- The Scouts attended worship on February 12. The “Love is . . .” dinner followed the 10:45 worship service.

### March

- Ash Wednesday was March 1 with services at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Pastor Ann offered Ashes to Go (drive-up) at 12:00 and 5:00 p.m.
- Lenten Wednesdays included a soup supper at 6:15 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m.
- On March 6, the Muskingum University Concert Choir and Chamber Singers presented an outstanding concert in Zion’s sanctuary. There were 144 people in the audience, two-thirds of which were guests, and 45 singers in the choir. The Zion choir hosted a dinner for the choir prior to the concert.

### April

- Holy Week services included Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00 p.m.
- On Easter Day, April 16, the bell choir provided additional accompaniment for hymns at the 10:45 worship service. An assortment of bulb flowers decorated each worship space.

### May

- On May 14, we celebrated the Blessing of Fields and Gardens, using the Rogation Day lessons.

### June

- The 10:45 worship time was changed to 10:00 for the summer months. We also roped off the outside sections of the pews in the sanctuary to keep the assembly closer together as we learned a new setting of the liturgy from the ELW, setting 2.
- The Day of Pentecost was June 4, with geraniums and red jar candles decorating the worship spaces.

### July

- Outdoor Worship on July 23 was again celebrated at Secret Arboretum.

### August

- On August 20, the 10:45 worship time resumed and we included the Backpack School Blessing in the worship services.



## September

- Choir rehearsals began on Thursday, September 7. Both adult ensembles rehearse on Thursday evenings – 6 p.m. Bell choir; 7 p.m. Choir.
- The chancel ceiling was repainted during the weeks of September 17 and 24. We improvised with the credence table used as an altar and the choir in the front pews.
- On September 10, we celebrated *God's work. Our hands.* Sunday, which was established by the ELCA. Volunteers from Zion helped with trash removal at the Wayne County Fair.

## October

- On October 1, we dedicated several quilts and school bags that our Project Day volunteers made for Lutheran World Relief.
- On October 8, we celebrated the baptism of Nora Golias.
- Oboist, Alex Piepenbrink, played with the choir for John Rutter's, *The Lord Is My Shepherd* on October 15.
- Zion celebrated Reformation Sunday with Reformation service texts, a brass ensemble at 10:45 worship, and participated in an ecumenical prayer service with six other churches in the afternoon at St. Mary.

## November

- All Saints' Sunday, November 5 – 10:45 Worship included the Remembrance of All Saints and a choral anthem with saxophone and bells played by youth.

## December

- The Downtown Church Walk was on December 1, with several hundred people visiting Zion, listening to the organ, and enjoying coloring in Room 200.
- On December 10, Rev. Karl Biermann, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, preached and presided at both morning worship services.
- Church Christmas Caroling was on Saturday, December 16 at 3:00. Approximately 18 carolers visited our homebound parishioners who look forward to singing carols and the chance to talk with their visitors.
- The Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. included Eucharist, candlelight, and a Children's Message with children arranging the figures in the nativity scene and blessing of the nativity. At 8:00 p.m., both choirs offered music and leadership of carol singing in a festive Eucharist liturgy ending with candlelight.



Additional music expenses, beyond the General Operating budget line for Choirs, are funded through the *Special Ministries Music at Zion and Choirs* accounts. Designated gifts to these accounts support the hiring of guest musicians, new music purchases, and maintenance of the Schulmerich handbells (now 40 years old).

The Sunday Worship schedule continues with Coffee House Contemporary Worship in Room 100 at 8:45 a.m., Traditional Worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m., and DZ@6 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 100. Zion’s Choir (adult vocal ensemble) offers musical leadership at the traditional worship service every Sunday from September through May. The Glory Ringers (adult handbell ensemble) offer preludes and communion music at traditional worship once each month from October through May. Martha Bollinger, Tom Long, Patrick Secrist, and Pastor Ann Paynter continue to lead Coffee House Worship weekly. Madison Schroer, Ashley Schroer, and Jason Karger have also helped the group with their musical talents. Music is provided at DZ@6 through the use of CDs or a pianist.

### Attendance Summary 2017

Weekly Service	Avg. per week in 2016	Avg. per week in 2017
Traditional	91.47	4872/ 55 services (includes Christmas 5pm & 8pm)= 88.58
Coffee House	39.80	1875/ 51 services (no CH on 2.19, 7.23)= 36.76
DZ @6	23.38	1125/ 51 services= 22.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>154.65</b>	<b>147.4</b>