

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



Sunday School - 1875

Organized - 1876

Incorporated - 1899

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2011

Annual Meeting, February 12, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT	PAGE
Agenda	3
Parish Staff/Parish Council/Parish Leaders	4
Congregational Meetings Minutes (2/13/11, 12/11/11)	5-6
Pastor's Report	7-9
Council Report/Altar Guild	10-11
President's Report/ Care Corp	12
Parish Statistics	13
Cradle Roll Report /"O Zion Haste"	14
Property Committee Report/ Blanket Ministry	15
Finance Report/ Budget	16-19
Giving Step Report	19
Contribution Account Balances	20
Girl Scouts	21
Endowment Report/ Outreach	22-23
Culinary	24
Mutual Ministry /PERT Reports	25
Historian	26
Parish Nurse/ Flower Ministry	27
Worship & Music Committee Report	28
Parochial Report	29-30
Sunday School Report	31
VBS/ Cleaning Angels	32
Relay for Life/ Food Baskets/ Support Our Soldiers	33

AGENDA

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEB. 12, 2012



- I. "O Zion Haste" – last hymn in service
Grace said before benediction
- II. Meeting begins at end of meal
Establish quorum – pass around sign in sheet
Opening devotions – Pastor Kistler
- III. Introduction of officers and welcome of visitors – George Taylor
John Haldeman, vice president, Rochelle Evanousky, Secretary, Judy Brennan, Deb Davies,
Ron Dietrich, Ernie Henritzky, Paul Pecha, Tim M. Stahl, Walter Weston, Melody Casler – Parish
administrator, Dave Gensure – treasurer, Ann Marie Hadesty – financial secretary
- IV. Adoption of minutes of Feb. 13, 2011 and Dec. 11, 2011 meetings
- V. Reception of financial reports
Treasurer – Dave Gensure
Financial secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty - Giving step report – page 19
Auditors – Bob Jones, Endowment – Paul Pecha
Motion to accept the financial reports
- VI. Reception of other reports
Any additional information to report?
Please introduce your team/committee members.
Any questions?
Altar guild – Sandy Graham, Cradle Roll – Mary Kay Davis, Girl Scouts – George Taylor, Goods n Stuff
– Tim Stahl, Mutual Ministry – Judy Brennan, Parish Nurse – Gwyn Evans, PERT – George Taylor
Property report – Mark Valentine, Sunday School – Suzanne Cunningham, Worship and Music – Sandy
Mehalko, Motion to accept the reports
- VII. Old business
1. Re-elect George Taylor to Church Council
- VIII. New business
1. Adoption of ELCA proposed changes to congregational constitution
Motion comes from Church Council that we adopt the changes to our congregational constitution as
proposed by the ELCA.
2. Adoption of Zion Evangelical Luther Church of Tamaqua Mission Statement
Motion comes from Church Council that we adopt the Mission Statement package (Beliefs, Values,
Visions and Mission Statement) as developed by the Mission Statement team.
3. Question: Should we instruct Church Council to develop a set of goals that reflect the Mission
Statement?
- IX. State of the congregation
Pastor Kistler's remarks
George Taylor's remarks
- X. Adjournment and closing devotions



PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeffery Kistler, Interim Pastor
Sandra Mehalko, Parish Musician
Melody Casler, Parish Administrator
David Gensure, Treasurer
Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary
Kimberly Eckert and Sandra Graham, Sextons

PARISH COUNCIL

	Term	Ending	Position/Committee
George Taylor	2 nd	12/31/14	President/Fin/Property/PERT
John Haldeman	1 st	12/31/12	Vice president/Worship/Adult Ed
Rochelle Evanousky	1 st	12/31/13	Secretary/Christian Education/Adult
Judy Brennan	2 nd	12/31/14	Mutual Ministry
Deb Davies	1 st	12/31/13	Christian Education/Youth
Ron Dietrich	1 st	12/31/13	Property Comm. Chair
Ernie Henrtitz	1 st	12/31/14	
Paul Pecha	2 nd	12/31/13	Finance/Endowment
Tim M. Stahl	1 st	12/31/14	Property/Cemetery
Walter Weston	2 nd	12/31/13	Finance/Endowment

PARISH LEADERS

Catechetical Coordinator – Deb Davies
Christian Education/Youth Leader – Suzanne Cunningham
Christian Education/Adult Leader –
Youth program leader –
Property Committee Chair – Ron Dietrich
Endowment Committee Chairman – Paul Pecha
Endowment Committee Secretary – Velma Mantz
Altar Guild Director – Sandra Graham
Acolyte Director – Art Connely
Assistant Acolyte Director – Amanda Luna
Head Usher – Earl Klein
Sunday Service Leaders – George Taylor, Ellsworth Davis, Mark Valentine
Track Rack Coordinator – Warren Schreffler
Parish Nurse - Gwen Evans, R.N.
Volunteer Coordinator –
Outreach Leader – Fran Stahl
Finance Committee Chair – Robert Jones



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tamaqua, PA

Congregational Meeting

February 13, 2011

The 2011 Annual Congregation Meeting followed an Anniversary Church Service in the Fellowship Hall and brunch in the Social Hall. Forty-nine people were in attendance which constituted a quorum. Pastor Kistler invited people to come up to the microphone and share what good things happened at the church over the past year. He also asked us what could be better. Ideas shared included a Youth Program and volunteering your time for lent.

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Kistler who opened with a prayer. President George Taylor welcomed everyone.

Report of the Secretary: The minutes from our congregation meetings in February and December, 2010 were approved on a motion made by Marlin Tirpak and seconded by Jean Derr.

Reception of the Reports of Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Auditors: There were no questions on the Treasurer's report. A question on the Financial Secretary's report on how the funds from Goods & Stuff are distributed was answered by Ann Marie Hadesty. The Audit is currently in progress so there were no details to report at this time. The Endowment report shows that donations dropped over the last three years. The committee is urging more contributions to Endowment. A motion to accept these reports was made by Kathleen Valentine and seconded by Jim Valentine.

Reception of the Reports of Pastor, Council President, Committees, Organizations, Auxiliaries:
Sandy Graham from the Altar Guild thanked everyone for their faithful service and introduced the other members.

There was nothing to report for the Cemetery Committee. At this time, it is included with the Property Committee.

Mary Kay Davis gave a brief update on the Cradle Roll.

Suzanne Cunningham provided an update of the Sunday School program and invited all children to attend.

George Taylor gave an update of the Girl Scouts program at Zion. We now have 200 girls meeting here for scouts.

Sandy Graham thanks all those who helped with Goods & Stuff in 2011. She said this program is a good fund raiser, outreach program and fellowship program combined in one.

Judy Brennan introduced the members of the Mutual Ministry group and explained their mission.

Our Parish Nurse, Gwen Evans, thanked everyone for contributing to her projects and noted that it will continue throughout the year.

The Pert Committee continues to have discussions with employees. The group is headed by David Fetterman.

Ron Dietrich of the Property Committee shared information on what needs to be done to restore the exterior of the church.

Deb Davies shared her plans for Vacation Bible School 2011. She needs volunteers to make it happen.

Sandy Mehalko thanked everyone involved in the Worship and Music committee for another good year.

A Finance Committee update was shared by Bob Jones. A new group was recently formed to review and update the congregation's financial policies.

A motion to accept all of these reports was made by Laura Fulmer and seconded by Bob Jones. All were in favor.

Old Business: We had an official election of officers for the Endowment Committee. Jim Valentine made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Marsha Bynon.

New Business: Fran Stahl gave an update on the new Outreach Program. We need bring in more people to get involved to make this program grow. She asked the question, "What can your talent bring to our church?".

Phil Gerace shared information on the Spiritual Development program and the needs of the congregation for Adult Education.

Ellsworth Davis from the Culinary Crew announced that they will bring back Faschnaut Day with a pork and sauerkraut supper on March 8. Lots of help and donations will be needed to make this a success.

Pastor Kistler gave a State of the Congregation report. Two new ideas that he will be bringing to Council include an in-house seminar to learn about the actions of the ELCA and to provide an opportunity for people to include their viewpoint. He would also like to continue to have meetings along with Mutual Ministry and unhappy members to discuss past conflicts. This would be followed by a service of resolution so we could all move forward.

President George Taylor provided closing comments to the congregation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Dietrich and seconded by Marsha Bynon. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Cunningham, Church Council Secretary

ZION CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

Pastor Kistler welcomed the congregation and reminded everyone that Holy Manners are in effect. Pastor Kistler opened the meeting with a prayer.

President George Taylor presented the 2012 Budget to the floor as a motion made by Church Council. He thanked Dave Gensure and Ann Marie Hadesty for putting the information together. To create this budget, George contacted the heads of committees for their input. George noted that Pastor Kistler's salary was included in the budget although we could be making pastoral changes during the year. George noted that the projected expenses and income are balanced. The income budget projections that we made a year ago are balanced for this year so we are where we should be.

George fielded some questions from the congregation about the insurance money received for the window project. He informed us that the \$1,000 deductible will come out of our budget. A second to the motion to accept the 2012 Budget was made by Marsha Bynon. All were in favor.

The election of new Church Council members took place. The Executive Council asked to accept Ernie Henritz and Timothy M. Stahl as new members and to elect Judy Brennan to a second term. Darlene Fetterman made a motion to close the nominations. This was seconded by Ida Piccin. All were in favor.

Two new Endowment Committee members were elected. Gerry Zeigler and James Bateman will join that committee. The new Church Council and Endowment members will be installed on December 18, 2011 during the worship service.

George Taylor reviewed a bylaw change recommended for the endowment fund. Because today's bank and CD interest rates are unrealistically low and because many stocks offer better rates, we recommend changing section BL 13.29 of the Congregation Bylaws to read: "The committee shall prepare a set of operating guidelines for the management of the fund's investments and allocations. Said guidelines shall be approved by, and may subsequently be amended by, the Congregation Council. Among those guidelines shall be the provisions that investments shall normally be limited to mutual funds, individual stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, or money market accounts." This was brought to the meeting as a motion. The motion was seconded by Ron Dietrich. All were in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sandy Scott and seconded by Marsha Bynon.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Cunningham
Church Council Secretary

2011 REPORT OF PASTORAL WORK
INTERIM PASTOR JEFFREY P. KISTLER
To Zion Church Annual Meeting – February 12, 2012
+++++

Statistics

Worship:

Lead Sunday Worship 48 Communion 46
Sermons preached: 43 Tchg. For Children 31
Special Services 15 Sermons 10 Tchg. Children 1
Communion 6
Sunday Services Cancelled 1 (snow)
Meetings to plan/practice worship 8
Weddings 1
Confirmations 6
Baptisms: Infant 10 Youth/Adult 3
New Members Received 4
Reinstatement of Membership/Reaffirmation of Faith 6
Funerals Members 9 Non-Member 2
Committal (separate) 1 Attend Calling Hours 2



Pastoral Care:

Home Visits 22 Home Communion 60
Hospital Visits 41 Hospital Communion 11
Office Visits business 81 Office Visits Pastoral 33
Counseling (office or phone) 19 Phone visits/ministry 31
Neighborhood Contact 1
Last Rites 3 House Blessing (non-member) 1

Education:

Baptismal Preparation meetings 11
Premarital Preparation meetings 4
First Communion Preparation 3
New Member Classes 2
Restoration to Membership Meetings 2
Confirmation/Sunday School Teaching 4
Teach Bible School (Kindergarten) 5
Record WLSH Advent-Christmas Message 1

Social or Work Events:

Church Social Events 14 Family Social Events 14
Work Party 1 Attend Fund Raiser 2

Church Administration:

Church Council 12 Executive Council 12
PERT 4 Other Church Meetings 50
Mission Statement Meetings Lead 6 Participate 1
Congregational Meetings 3
Church Fire alarms/Emergencies 3 Inspect Zion Building 1

Synod, UCC Conference, Meetings with other Pastors, Community

Lutheran Mission District 4 Lutheran Interim Pastors 4
UCC Conference and Lutheran Synod Meetings 2
Synod Workshops 2
Professional Consultation with other pastors 10
Tamaqua Ministerium 7
Host meeting with Bishop at Zion 1
Attend Tamaqua Advent Worship/Lunch 2
Advent Community Breakfast 1

Social Outreach/Concern:

Helping Hand Requests 11 Granted 7
Meeting with Social Agency Rep 1

Continuing Education:

Conference Calls with Interim Training Group 3
UCC Pastors' Workshop 1

Vacation: 4 weeks including 3 Sundays (4th Sunday occurred 1/1/12)

Interim Tasks Accomplished in 2011Interim Task: Conflict Resolution Process at Zion

Working with Mutual Ministry and Council, I've helped Zion to make good progress in resolving past conflicts and appropriately approaching conflict in the future. The Instrument of Peace process was adapted for Zion and approved by the congregation as a By Law in June. That same day a Liturgy of Confession and Reconciliation was used during worship. Mutual Ministry and I met with several members individually, using the Instrument of Peace approach to help them.

Conflict resolution is one of the two major tasks for which I came to Zion as your Interim Pastor. In my estimation this work is completed. It is now up to Zion leaders and the new Pastor to continue "In Recovery", in healthy habits and holy manners.

Interim Task: Help Zion to discover a renewed vision and mission:

With others from Zion, I have participated in the two "Do What Matters" Synod workshops.

The formal process for creating a Zion Mission Statement began in September, although planning began early in the summer.

Members were invited to come to a large group meeting where the mission statement concept and the process of developing one was presented. Three working groups were formed and met. Later in October they reported back to the larger group. A Committee of Four was charged with taking the group reports and discerning Beliefs, Values, Visions, and a Mission Statement. That group worked through two very intense meetings to create a draft which was shared and slightly revised.

Our expectation is that Council and then the Congregation will approve a final version of the Zion Mission Statement by February. Hopefully it will be useful in calling a Pastor and in setting priorities for mission and ministry.

I personally want to thank George Taylor for his inspired leadership in guiding the Mission Statement process.

Helping Zion Lutheran Church to discern its unique calling and mission is my second major task as Interim Pastor of Zion. It is satisfying to see that this task is almost finished. A core of motivated leaders at Zion should help the congregation to use the Mission Statement to discover and do God's will in the coming years.

Interim Task: Helping improve relationships with the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In response to a request from the Zion Church Council, Bishop Zeiser was invited to Zion on November 2 to discuss the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly action which allows rostering of persons who are in "publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous" same-gender relationships. Twenty-three persons participated, including three from St. John's Lutheran, Tamaqua. It was a good meeting, with lots of questions and dialogue. In my estimation it helped improve Zion's relationship with the Synod and with the (ELCA) denomination. Bishop Zeiser deserves Zion's special appreciation because he kept this appointment despite a heating emergency at home.

Interim Task: Help PERT revise the Parish Administrator's job description:

This work involved many meetings in summer and fall. As the year ends, there is a proposal which PERT expects the Church Council to approve in January, 2012.

Interim Task: Revise Existing Policies, Develop New Policies as Needed:

Zion's Baptism Policy was revised and approved by Council: July 19, 2011

A Pastor's Discretionary Fund ("Helping Hand") Policy was developed and approved by Church Council: July 19, 2011

Church Council and the Finance Committee, in cooperation with Goods and Stuff, reached an agreement about how past, present and future proceeds from Goods and Stuff events would be used.

Interim Task: Following a Successful Bible School, work with leaders to envision new approaches to Christian Education at Zion:

As a result of this work, the Zion Sunday School revised its format for the 2011-2012 class year.

Pastoral Tasks Accomplished in 2012

Part of my Interim work at Zion is to increase trust between Pastor and Congregation and to provide steady leadership of worship. Some highlights of 2011 are mentioned here:

Pastoral Task: Baptism and Restoration to Membership.

Ten infants were baptized. Using the new baptismal policy, four parents prepared for baptism of their children by being restored to "Voting Membership" of Zion Lutheran Church. A total of six adults, all previously confirmed at Zion, chose to Re-affirm their Baptisms, commune, and contribute so as to have their membership restored. Two adults and one youth were baptized.

Pastoral Task: Encourage Children to Grow in their Faith and to Find a "Home" in the Church.

On most Sundays (except during the summer) I included a Teaching for Children in worship. While preparation is demanding and time-consuming for me, children have responded well and hopefully think of worship and being in church more positively. Reality so far: Most participants are girls! How do we reach boys?

I chose to teach Kindergarten in Vacation Bible School to help find ways for Zion to reach its own children and families in the neighborhood. My evaluation: Bible School was educational, but primarily fun for the children and the teachers, including myself!

Preparation for First Holy Communion was again a rewarding experience for the teachers (Deb Davies and I) and the children. Twelve children and parents participated in three classes. First Communion was held on November 20. First Communion at least provides one early experience of God and the church for children, even if many never are confirmed.

Pastoral Task: Enhance Zion's Relationship with Other Churches in the Community; Help Churches to work together.

I've faithfully attended meetings of the Tamaqua Ministerium. In the Fall I became an ad hoc convener.

I helped Zion host the Baccalaureate Service for Tamaqua High School's Class of 2011. Parents of the seniors took charge of logistics at the service.

George Taylor has envisioned and begun a "Tamaqua Area Fellowship Network" composed of lay people representing many of the congregations in the community. With this group, he planned and led a very successful Community Advent Breakfast at Zion on December 3.

Pastoral Task: Lead Zion Worship during the Interim Period.

Serving as Interim Pastor, my goal is to sustain worship at Zion, not to propose or institute changes. Sandy Mehalko, the Worship and Music Committee and the Altar Guild have helped me. It has been personally rewarding for me to celebrate Holy Communion in the "Zion style" and the "Lutheran style".

Interim Tasks Remaining at Zion

Complete Adult Confirmation and New Member Classes: Winter, 2012

Work with Council and Committees to Create or Revise Additional Policies

Assure that Zion's Records (Recent and Long-Term) are preserved and accessible

Provide Pastoral Care and Worship Leadership until a new pastor is called: This normally would not extend beyond August, 2012, the second anniversary of my interim pastorate here..

Provide Interim Pastoral Leadership (until a new pastor is called) in responding to the challenges of Zion's building exterior: deterioration of cast concrete, protecting members and the public.

It has been my privilege and joy to serve as your Interim Pastor in 2012. Thank you to Church Council and many of you for joining in the work of the interim period. I look forward to Zion calling a new pastor who will work with you to discern and implement God's plans for the future.

Joyfully submitted,
Interim Pastor Jeffrey P. Kistler

ZION CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2011

Council highlights for 2011:

Approved job descriptions for Maintenance Sexton, Cleaning Sexton, Parish Administrator, Parish Organist and Parish Choir Director. Note: Parish Administrator's job description was revisited at the end of the year and approved at the January 2012 council meeting.

Approved Zion contribution of \$5,000 to Synod Benevolence for 2010.

Reinstated as VOTING MEMBERS the following persons whose names were removed from the rolls in 2010:

Maria Derr; Jeremy Yarish. Both have fulfilled requirements for reinstatement. Also Brook Ellen Moyer, 111 Lombard St., Tamaqua
Ruth Ann Richter, Rest Haven, 401 University Drive, Room 305, Schuylkill Haven,
Todd Bugdanavage, 304 Biddle Street, Tamaqua
Timothy M. Stahl, 324 E. Union St., Tamaqua

Approved the Instrument of Peace as a bylaw for the congregation.

Approved the formation of an Ad Hoc committee to formulate a Sexual Abuse Policy for Zion.

Approved Zion's membership in the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce.

Approved motion from committees of Property and Finance jointly propose that the Church retain Keast and Hood Co. and Masonry Preservation Services, Inc. to conduct a study of what should be done to repair the stonework on the exterior of the church to prevent further deterioration at a cost of \$13,250 for the study. Note: That study has been received and the Property Committee is currently reviewing it to formulate a plan to present to Council and to the Congregation.

Approved a plan submitted by the Finance Committee regarding the allocation of funds from previous and future Goods N Stuff events. It was agreed to split proceeds from previous rummage sales in the following manner: 50% to the Church and 50% for the community (Outreach). In the future, revenues will be split 80% for the Church and 20% for the community (Outreach).

Approved moving Culinary and Goods'N Stuff from being a budget line item to a "non-budgeted" item because of the effect these items have in reading accurate budget results.

Approved the use of recognized criminal and child safety checks in lieu of the checks performed by the Safe Harbor agency. Copies of the appropriate documents must be presented to Executive Council. Documents presented cannot be more than two (2) years old.

Approved the purchase of a new computer tower from Dell computer for the church office for a cost of \$587.

Approved the appointment of Laura Fulmer as Cemetery Secretary.

Approved new pricing for Zion's cemetery:

Single grave - \$275 + \$100 for non-member
Double grave - \$500 + 100 for non-member
Lot (6 graves) - \$1,400 + \$200 for non-member
\$375 administrative and preservation fee for casket burial
\$150 administrative and preservation fee for cremational burial

Approved the expanded "Baptism Guidelines" Policy as presented by Pastor Kistler.

Approved: Council will no longer vote on baptisms. The Pastor will oversee the policy. Baptisms will be brought to Council as informational items. Any exception to the policy can be brought to Council by the Pastor for consideration.

Approved the “Helping Hands’ Pastor’s Discretionary Fund Policy”.

Approved a \$100 donation to the Tamaqua Fire Police to help defray the cost of new radios.

Approved Finance Committee request: Because today’s bank CD interest rates are unrealistically low and because many stocks offer better rates, we recommend changing section BL 13.29 of the Congregational Bylaws to read: “The committee shall prepare a set of operating guidelines for the management of the fund’s investments and allocations. Said guidelines shall be approved by, and may subsequently be amended by, the Congregation Council. Among those guidelines shall be the provisions that investments shall normally be limited to mutual funds, individual stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, or money market accounts.”

Approved Property’s motion to hire Lamar Reed of Tamaqua to clear snow from Zion sidewalks this winter at a rate of \$10 per hour. Lamar does snow removal for the Tamaqua Library and was recommended by Art Connely.

Approved a motion from Executive Council to set up a meeting with Pastor Garbe, associate to the bishop, to begin the call process.

Approved a Mission Statement package developed by a committee representing various segments of the congregation that includes a statement of congregational beliefs and visions as well as a statement of purpose.

Looking ahead for 2012

Church Council will:

Conduct conversations regarding the call process. Exploring options.

Review and implement exterior restoration plans as presented by the Property and Finance committees.

Explore measurable ways to implement our Mission Statement.

Develop partnerships to further God’s working in our congregation and community.

Submitted by
George Taylor, council president

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

During the past year, we had six members serve on Altar Guild. Thank you for your faithful service.

We serve the Lord by preparing the altar for worship with the communion Sacraments. We also take care of the paraments and fair linens.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a very special ministry and we wish to share this service with anyone willing to participate.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Graham, Coordinator

President's report - Looking ahead at 2012

What would success look like here at Zion? That's an interesting question we might ask as a congregation.

We might say that success is having the pews filled every Sunday. While attendance has been good this past year, our records from the last five years show a decrease from a yearly total attendance of 7,234 in 2007 to 6,035 in 2011.

Another possible answer might be that success is when we are able to pay all our bills in a timely manner and still have a little surplus at the end of the year. A decrease in attendance is reflected in a decrease in giving.

In December we voted on our 2012 budget. That budget was carefully developed to more accurately reflect expenses in 2012. Dave Gensure did an excellent job contacting committees and active groups to determine a budget that truly reflects the needs of our congregation.

Ann Marie Hadesty developed a revenue budget based on the last few years of giving. It is an optimist projection, and if it is accurate, we could end 2012 with a surplus.

Does that spell success?

If not, then what might success look like here at Zion?

We will review and most likely adopt a mission statement at our annual meeting. In that document we also explore our beliefs and visions. One important belief is this:

"We believe that living in faith and following God is a lifelong journey and is nurtured through worship, fellowship, study, ministry and mission."

How do we turn those nurturing items into actions?

What are our aspirations for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church?

What roadblocks do we see?

What needs to change for those aspirations to become reality?

These are the questions we need to ask and answer in the coming year as we deal with the issues of calling a new pastor and addressing the exterior needs of our building.

George Taylor
Council president

Care Corp 2011



Care Corps, Outreach and Parish Nurse coordinated a project with St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital Geriatric Ward. Eight members of the parish visited the 5th floor residents on December 23 and distributed personal care items to them. Through the Parish Nurse Angel Tree, church members donated personal care items. Additional items were purchased through the Outreach budget. Forty-eight residents received a visit and a bag of items.

Thanks,
Mary Ruth

PARISH STATISTICS

WORSHIP SERVICES

198	2005
162	2006
131	2007
117	2008
112	2009
108	2010
106	2011

SUNDAY SCHOOL

61	2005
68	2006
37	2008
20	2009
20	2010
15	2011

	2010	2011
Baptized Membership	954	963
Confirmed Members	611	613
Confirmed Members Who:		
Communed	324	322
Did Not Commune (of record)	287	291
Contributed	327	360
Did Not Contribute (of record)	284	253
Communed AND Contributed	240	285
Neither Communed NOR Contributed	99	138
Communed Did Not Contribute (of record)	26	24
Contributed Did Not Commune (of record)	81	75
Non-Confirmed Communing Membership	19	21
Members received by Baptism (Child)	8	10
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	3
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	0	6
New First Communicants	13	12
Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer		
(Baptized)	0	2
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	2
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by		
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	0	3
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	3
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	0	6
Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	4	1
(Confirmed)	4	1
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	4	0
(Confirmed)	4	0
Member Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	260	0
Members who were taken by Death	14	14
Non-Member Deaths	0	2
Marriages	2	1

Cradle Roll Report 2011

The Cradle Roll is a ministry that reaches out to newly baptized babies and their families. Zion is currently using the *Splash! Pack* series and presently has 25 infants enrolled. The Pack includes an age appropriate music CD and Parent Pages newsletters which are sent monthly until the child is 3 years old. The purpose of the mailings is to provide fun and easy ideas for bringing faith into everyday life of infants and their families, connect church and families for support and encouragement and to help young children grow in faith from an early age. Cards are also sent on the anniversary of the child's baptism reminding parents of their baptismal promise.

If you know of a child baptized at Zion this past year, and not receiving the SPLASH! Pack monthly mailing, please contact the church office.

Looking forward to serving Cradle Roll members and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Davis

.....

O ZION, HASTE

O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is Light.
That He who made all nations is not willing
One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

REFRAIN:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Publish to every people, tongue and nation
That God, in whom they live and move, is love;
Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation
And died on earth that we might live above. (*Refrain*)

Give of your own to bear the message glorious,
Give of your wealth to speed them on their way,
Pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious,
And haste the coming of the glorious day. (*Refrain*)

He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet Him,
Make known to ev'ry heart His saving grace;
Let none whom He has ransomed fail to greet Him,
Through your neglect unfit to see His face. (*Refrain*)



Property Report for 2011

Property committee added two members this year: Dave Hadesty and Tim M. Stahl. Ron Dietrich is chair; Mark Valentine, vice chair. Ellsworth Davis and George Taylor are members.

In addition to routine maintenance of the building Property Committee also completed necessary work at Zion's Cemetery:

- Removed brush and low hanging limbs
- Filled in low spots with fill and top soil
- Reseeded bare areas
- Repaired damaged fencing

Building projects during 2011 included:

Preparing and painting the back porch of the parsonage – 90% of the project is complete. The end of the porch nearest the church remains to be done this spring

- Installing new ovens in the kitchen
- Replacing the dishwasher in the kitchen
- Replacing the sidewalk on the Mauch Chunk Street side of the church
- Replacing windows and glass panes damaged by the summer hailstorm
- Cleaning out the closets in the breezeway
- Hiring a structural engineer to study the church's exterior problem
- Repairing the church's emergency lighting system
- Purchasing additional Gather Room furniture

Projects for 2012 include:

- Reviewing the exterior study and developing a plan of action
- Renovating the steps at the kitchen end of the stage
- Completing the painting of the parsonage back porch
- Continuing work in the cemetery – restoring toppled headstones



BLANKET MINISTRY REPORT

The Blanket ministry made over 100 blankets; we also had additional blankets donated. We distributed them to flood areas, Birth Right in Frackville, United Charities in Hazleton, Victims Resources in Wilkes Barre, some of our people who are in the nursing Homes, and some of the homeless people in and out of our area. The blankets were received with appreciation and love. We will resume making blankets in the early spring. Thank you to all the people who made this ministry happen. We welcome anyone who is interested in this ministry. Look for the time and date in the bulletin.

Blessings,
Judy Brennan

Zion Finance Committee Report 2011

The Finance Committee at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is comprised of Robert Jones, Chairperson; Steven Ristila, Vice Chair; Jim McRoberts, recording secretary; George Taylor, Council President; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Jeffrey Kistler, Pastor; Paul Pecha, Walter Weston, and Timothy Stahl.

The Financial Task Force Committee is busy formulating a Financial Policy for the Church. The Task Force has looked at the various Funds and made recommendations to keep some and close others, transferring the monies in them to other accounts. The Finance Task Force met with past and present leadership of Goods 'N Stuff. As a result of this meeting it was agreed to split proceeds from previous rummage sales in the following manner: 50% to the Church and 50% for the community (Outreach). This year and in the future, revenues will be split 80% for the Church and 20% for the community (Outreach).

In the attempt to develop a new Financial Policy for the Church the committee has addressed policies pertaining to the status of members who live out-of-town, and providing offering envelopes to newly confirmed members. The committee looked at policies regarding current, carry-over, special funds, endowment, and bequest funds. In doing so the Finance has tried to follow the financial policies of the ELCA and bylaw guidelines for financial management of the congregation.

One of the major priorities in the Fall was the adoption of the 2012 Budget to be presented to Church Council. The process went very smooth this year due to the implementation of the following guidelines along with the cooperation of staff and committee chairs. All who took part are to be commended for their timely cooperation!

Sept. 14 Treasurer sends a notice to committee chairs and staff regarding the timeline for the opportunity for input to the budget process.

Sept 29 Budget input from committees and staff due back to Treasurer

Oct. 4 Finance Committee receives copies of input from committees and staff along with a preliminary budget proposal from the Treasurer

Nov. 1 Budget recommendation approved for presentation to Council.

In the coming months Finance will continue to review the handling of church money consistent with good business practices and Synod guidelines.

The Task Force will be looking at Zion's bill-paying policies and procedures and ways to improve expense vouchers, purchase orders and approvals.

A Task Force comprised of Finance Committee members has been formed to work on this policy. They will develop a draft of a policy statement for consideration by the Finance Committee. Once approved by the Committee it will be taken before Church Council for their consideration.

As always the Finance Committee works hard to make sure funds are spent wisely. Members give to the Church what they are able to afford and trust their money will be spent in a way that serves the Church and glorifies God. The Finance committee is committed to protecting the financial stability of Zion Lutheran Church. Each year brings its own array of challenges and problems. Attendance at Sunday services has increased at the same time weekly giving has decreased. Contributions to various funds in the way of memorials and honorariums to loved ones are appreciated. We thank the congregation for their continuing financial support. Remember, the financial responsibility of the church is to be a wise steward of the resources God has entrusted to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Jones, Finance Chair

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2012 BUDGET

	Budget 2011	Actual 2011	Budget 2012
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$225.00	\$176.46	\$180.00
Total Commitment	\$5,825.00	\$5,776.46	\$5,780.00

Pastor Expenses

Pastor Salary	\$30,152.00	\$29,207.93	\$30,853.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$3,000.00	\$1,351.25	\$2,000.00
Pastor Health/Dental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor Other Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor Pension	\$5,269.00	\$5,319.94	\$5,357.00
Pastor Social Security Allowance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor Continuing Education	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00	\$11,538.50	\$12,000.00
Pastor Furnishing Allow.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vacation Supply	\$1,000.00	\$478.04	\$1,000.00
Total Pastor Expenses	\$51,971.00	\$47,895.66	\$51,760.00



Lay Staff Exp

Parish Administrator	\$14,179.00	\$13,782.75	\$15,600.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$8,453.00	\$8,128.00	\$8,453.00
Maint. Sexton/Snow Removal	\$5,616.00	\$440.00	\$1,000.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$5,429.00	\$5,220.25	\$5,429.00
Service Sexton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Financial Secretary	\$2,400.00	\$2,307.75	\$2,400.00
Treasurer	\$3,000.00	\$2,884.50	\$3,000.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Grounds Keeper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday School Coord	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Medicare/Social Security Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Lay Staff Exp	\$39,277.00	\$32,763.25	\$36,082.00

Administration

Office Supplies	\$2,300.00	\$1,449.22	\$1,500.00
Office Equipment	\$628.00	\$618.83	\$628.00
Mailings	\$750.00	\$1,222.90	\$750.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$1,200.00	\$2,306.45	\$1,200.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,400.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,400.00
Advertising & Media	\$400.00	\$425.65	\$400.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$500.00	\$393.60	\$500.00
Total Adm. Exp.	\$7,178.00	\$7,766.65	\$6,378.00

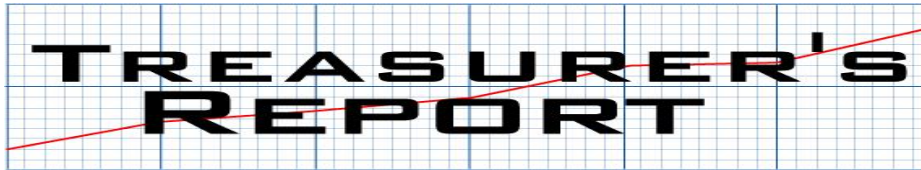
Property

Fuel Oil	\$20,000.00	\$20,760.14	\$20,000.00
Electricity	\$5,000.00	\$5,253.36	\$5,300.00
Phone	\$1,000.00	\$1,079.47	\$1,200.00
Internet	\$400.00	\$395.40	\$400.00
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,922.06	\$4,000.00
Equip. Purchase	\$2,800.00	\$95.39	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$817.47	\$1,200.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$1,200.00	\$1,607.20	\$1,200.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$3,500.00	\$2,354.99	\$1,500.00
Total Property	\$37,900.00	\$34,285.48	\$35,300.00

	Budget 2011	Actual 2011	Budget 2012
Insurance			
Employer Share Taxes	\$3,500.00	\$2,582.77	\$2,800.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,000.00	\$979.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$10,924.00	\$12,000.00
Total Insurance	\$16,500.00	\$14,485.77	\$15,800.00
Worship and Music			
Music	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$600.00	\$1,178.87	\$1,000.00
Communion Supplies	\$500.00	\$830.96	\$500.00
Candles	\$500.00	\$466.86	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$800.00	\$764.55	\$800.00
Bulletins	\$100.00	\$142.88	\$100.00
Acolytes	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Baptism Sup./Confirmation Sup.	\$100.00	\$740.86	\$500.00
Ministry Materials	\$400.00	\$214.17	\$200.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$620.00	\$1,056.00	\$800.00
Total Worship & Music	\$4,320.00	\$5,395.15	\$4,800.00
Christian Education			
Curriculum & Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday School Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$372.82	\$500.00
Adult Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council			\$500.00
Vac. Church School	\$500.00	\$500.13	\$600.00
Total Christian Education	\$1,700.00	\$872.95	\$2,300.00
Stewardship & Evangelism			
Offering Envelopes	\$3,000.00	\$2,428.04	\$2,500.00
Stewardship	\$100.00	\$308.80	\$500.00
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$3,100.00	\$2,736.84	\$3,000.00
Social Ministry			
Parish Nurse	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
Donations	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total Social Ministry	\$450.00	\$100.00	\$450.00
Misc Accounts			
Bank Charges	\$200.00	\$75.25	\$100.00
Special Events	\$300.00	\$442.26	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00	\$579.91	\$2,000.00
Scholarships	\$61.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Misc Accounts	\$5,561.00	\$1,097.42	\$2,600.00
Fund Expense			
Improvement Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$44,879.76	\$0.00
Culinary/Kitchen	\$100.00	\$3,478.20	\$0.00
Helping Hands/Pastor Discretion	\$450.00	\$1,007.62	\$0.00
Total Fund Expense	\$10,550.00	\$49,365.58	\$0.00
GRAND TOTALS	\$184,332.00	\$202,541.21	\$164,250.00

Budget Continued:**Non-Budgeted Accts**

ELCA Benevolence		\$1,784.00	\$0.00
World Hunger	\$3,500.00	\$1,267.65	\$0.00
LWR	\$600.00	\$474.00	\$0.00
Missionary/Joyful Noise	\$900.00	\$8.00	\$0.00
Total Unbudgeted	\$5,000.00	\$3,533.65	\$0.00



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church -Tamaqua PA 18252

Giving Step Report

Total Count for Amount Given:

\$0.00 thru \$0.00 = 146
 \$0.01 thru \$52.00 = 123
 \$52.01 thru \$104.00 = 55
 \$104.01 thru \$156.00 = 17
 \$156.01 thru \$208.00 = 15
 \$208.01 thru \$260.00 = 9
 \$260.01 thru \$312.00 = 8
 \$312.01 thru \$364.00 = 8
 \$364.01 thru \$416.00 = 8
 \$416.01 thru \$468.00 = 6
 \$468.01 thru \$520.00 = 5
 \$520.01 thru \$780.00 = 20
 \$780.01 thru \$1,040.00 = 13
 \$1,040.01 thru \$1,300.00 = 11
 \$1,300.01 thru \$1,560.00 = 6
 \$1,560.01 thru \$2,080.00 = 6
 \$2,080.01 thru \$2,600.00 = 3
 \$2,600.01 thru \$3,120.00 = 4
 \$3,120.01 thru \$3,640.00 = 2
 \$3,640.01 thru \$4,160.00 = 1
 \$4,160.01 thru \$4,680.00 = 1
 \$4,680.01 thru \$5,200.00 = 1
 \$5,200.01 thru \$5,720.00 = 1
 \$5,720.01 thru \$6,240.00 = 1
 \$6,240.01 thru \$10,000.00 = 0

Date range: 01/01/2011 thru 12/31/2011

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church -Tamaqua PA 18252
Contribution Account Balances (January thru December 2011)

Account Number	Account Name	Year to Date
100	Current	\$110,918.49
101	Initial Envelope	\$285.00
102	New Year's Day Envelope	\$131.00
103	Birthday Envelope	\$475.00
105	Improvement Fund	\$38,508.13
108	Special Services	\$70.00
109	Miscellaneous	\$631.00
110	Endowment Fund	\$4,091.00
112	Rummage/Bake Sale & Match Fund	\$4,675.95
114	Special	\$420.00
116	Oil Fund	\$3,085.71
120	Scholarship Fund	\$85.00
121	Vacation Bible School	\$589.47
125	Flowers	\$558.00
130	Annuity Fund	\$300.00
131	Benevolence	\$1,784.00
136	Herald/ Bulletins	\$928.00
138	Use of Facility	\$400.00
142	Plate offering	\$5,316.24
143	Sunday School offering	\$1,173.57
150	Candles	\$123.00
151	Baccalaureate Service Offering	\$698.25
154	Culinary	\$6,753.15
165	Helping Hand Fund	\$75.00
166	Cemetery	\$316.00
168	All Saints	\$223.00
169	Reformation	\$206.00
170	Organ Fund	\$145.00
171	Current Memorial/Honorarium	\$6,665.00
172	Advent Envelope	\$194.00
173	Christmas Envelope	\$5,047.00
174	Thanksgiving Envelope	\$334.00
175	World Hunger Fund	\$1,267.65
176	Lutheran World Relief Envelope	\$474.00
177	Ash Wednesday Envelope	\$726.00
178	Lenten Envelopes	\$1,170.00
179	Maundy Thursday Envelopes	\$275.00
180	Good Friday Envelopes	\$197.00
181	Easter Envelopes	\$2,948.00
182	Ascension envelope	\$303.00
183	Pentecost envelope	\$183.00
184	Harvest Home	\$260.00
191	Thrivent Fund	\$2,387.00
192	Deficit Reduction	\$20.00
193	Outreach	\$305.56

Total: \$205,721.17

Girl Scouts - 2011

Thank you for hosting our Girl Scouting program here at Zion's. In 2011 we had approximately 150 Girls and Adults meeting between Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings. The Girl Scouts range from Kindergarten to 9th grade currently and the program continues right through to High School graduation. In 2011 the Girl Scouts assisted the following organizations through donations, time, etc...Toys for Tots, Hillside SPCA, United Way, Tamaqua Salvation Army food bank, Trinity food bank, selected families in the area who needed help, Christmas Caroling at High Rise and Majestic house, Hometown Nursing home, Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, care packages to soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq, Pink Light program to promote Breast Cancer Awareness, Lions Club Sight Night program, and Trees of the 21st Century Project. The Girls have also been busy with other programs in the community by participating in Earth Day events, Memorial Day parade and the Veterans Day parades. During the summer the girls took part in a 2 day camp at the Bungalow where they enhanced their outdoor skills, learned about survival tricks if they become lost in the woods and discovered how they can make an impact on planet Earth by recycling. Some fun activities the girls participated in were a Halloween party, Christmas party, Girl Scout Sunday, Mother/Daughter Tea party, Corn Maze scavenger hunt, swim party at the High School, Bowling, Baseball games, Hockey games, Pinewood derby against the Tamaqua Cub Scouts, Globetrotters, Great wolf lodge indoor water park, Dorney park, and Hershey park. During the summer 45 Girls and parents went to NYC to participate in a stage program and see the play WICKED on Broadway at the Gershwin Theatre. Here one of our very own girls, Rachael Paisley, was 1 of 5 girls chosen out of 250 entries to read her "For Good" essay (on an event she was in charge of to help others) on stage in front of the entire audience. Another wonderful achievement this year was that 2 of our older girls Victoria Carrell and Emma Osenbach were able to complete the requirements and earn the Silver Award (this is the 2nd highest award in scouting). With your continued support the girls were able to experience, ceremonies, community service; new opportunities learn responsibility and fulfill the requirements set in the GS Promise and law.



The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

ENDOWMENT FUND 2011 REPORT

2011 turned out to be one of the most trying years of our investing experience. Fixed investments were below 1% On CD's. The equities lost 8% overall and gifts to the fund were the lowest since our inception. Because of this performance we are forced to change our operating rules and procedures. Our Bylaws had to be changed to allow us to purchase stocks and bonds. We are also in contact with several investment firms to take over the management of our accounts. The procedure to purchase stocks and bonds requires the use of licensed professionals. Present value of our fund investments is \$298,390.00. Our anticipated gift to the church for 2012 is \$16,757.00. Total gifts to the church since our inception are \$230,657.00.

We again would like to thank everyone for their gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones. This money was invested to help our church to grow and progress into the future. We note that our endowment grows by these gifts and your present gift will continue to grow as an annual gift.

Endowment Committee: Paul Pecha, Chairman, Velma Mantz – Secretary, Walter Weston, Financial Secretary, Steve Ristila, Robert Jones, and Jim Batman.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Pecha, Chairman

Outreach 2011

Outreach is like a tree with many branches which reach out in all different directions. The Committee itself is the trunk of the tree where many projects get their beginning with the branches representing the various ministries that get carried out, so although there is a core Outreach Committee, many Committees overlap with Outreach. We feel our mission is to help the Community, our Church, and people in distant places as well.

Outreach had a productive year, expanding in many directions. **Blanket Ministry** was reactivated by Judy Brennan. **Care Corps** re-emerged under Mary Ruth Taylor. **Goods 'N Stuff**, led by Timothy D. Stahl, was very successful in the spring and fall events which brought in almost \$6,000 total. What's more, the distribution of the left-over items was wisely and generously handled--books to our local Library; clothing for yet another fund-raiser elsewhere; school uniforms pulled out to be distributed to those in need in 2012; cloth materials for the Blanket Ministry; unsold kitchen utensils went into our church kitchen; a truckload went to Trinity Church for their sale; some Christmas ornaments to the Tamaqua Leo Club (young Lions) to decorate a tree for the needy; Christmas decorations for our members to use as a fund-raiser under the creative skills of Gwen Evans & Deb Davies and a small team they gathered; Christmas decorations and angels used as centerpieces for various church functions, empty shoeboxes were saved for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Project; the bulk of what was left went to Access Services. Where did all that stuff come from? St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church donated a carload of items for one of our sales, but most of it came from you; and so many of you came and helped set up as well as during the day of. Last, but not least, many of you purchased items--it truly was a whole-church effort.

Beth Lattanzi and Beverly Batman were in charge of getting a group together to prepare and mail "vintage-like" **Christmas cards** to approximately 500 church members; they had a tableful of happy helpers. They've already received new card donations from many of you such that no cards will need to be bought for Christmas 2012. We collected 19 **Flood Buckets**, valued at \$1,140, and distributed those; the cost to us was only \$200 for supplies--thanks to the generosity of M&S Hardware and so very many of you. Bill and Lori Krell donated a full flood bucket! Items for ten **Shoeboxes** were collected by the Sunday School and sent to Samaritan's Purse. George Taylor created a **Time & Talent Survey** in order for all of us to know where our strengths lie, giving us the ability to tap into those talents, and with the help of Lauren Davis created a spreadsheet to better organize that information. Mary Kay Davis collected items to be sent to our **Troops**--cookies, disposable toothbrushes, toothpaste, Granola bars, peanut butter, etc.; she sent the items to SPC Ryan DeBellis in Afghanistan and included some inspirational cards as well. She will be having

another collection in 2012, so even more items can be sent. We need the addresses of other soldiers from our community who are serving away from home. Two of us met with a representative from Women in Crisis in the fall. We are now better informed and have knowledge of who to contact and what help could be given.

The Red Cross had **surplus items** from Emergency Flood Funding in the spring, and we arranged for the receipt and distribution of over 70 cases of items--flavored water, chips, crackers, Snickers, food bars, laundry detergent, bleach, etc. to various people in need throughout our community and Hazleton. The Red Cross also gave us 5 pallettes of water of which we've distributed approximately 5,000 bottles to our local Fire Companies, the Salvation Army, and others in need. Thanks to those of you who helped unload the trucks and helped to deliver many of the items. We reached out to our congregation through 2 Joyful Noise collections and received over \$160 for the **Salvation Army**; Outreach added \$500 to that and presented them with a check before Christmas. We also supported Meals on Wheels as we have done in the past. We paid for more tables to accommodate larger crowds in the Social Hall.

When I was approached last minute (by a group outside of our church--RSVP) to find a way to have **Christmas cookies** made for local hospices, I asked Gail Jones and without any formal announcements Gail, Paul Fegley, and Lucy Gerace gave me dozens of delightful cookies for that. Laura and Chris Fulmer and young Madison Watson joined the Tamaqua Lions in caroling at the hospital in Coaldale in December. Another example of our church members' generosity this past year, a former tenant of mine needed a ride to a hospital in Allentown, and I was unable to take her; she does not have adequate family support nor does she drive. She has multiple health issues. Thanks to Jan McRoberts, she got the ride she needed. Although Jan is part of Diakon and she often fills the role of transporting people, this was so last-minute that Diakon would not sanction the trip--they couldn't cover any expenses nor insurance for the trip. Without blinking an eye, Jan took her anyway and spent several hours waiting at the hospital. So, you see, you don't have to be one of the Outreach members or even a Lion in order to be part of the Outreach Team. We can ALL be part of Outreach, one way or another.

In 2012, Deb Davies will be working with the Confirmands to raise funds to purchase a Zion **brick** for placement at the Train Station. Deb and Gwen Evans plan to form a group to put together a **Cinderella's Helper** Gown Collection for those girls from Marian High School and Tamaqua High School who might not be able to afford a gown, shoes, and jewelry for their Prom. Gwen also plans to have an **Alex's Lemonade Stand** at Tamaqua's Summerfest in order to raise money for the American Cancer Society. This is just one of the ways she hopes to raise funds through the Relay for Life; she is also showing the townspeople and visitors that Zion cares. We will continue with the Goods 'N Stuff sales in the spring and fall, so start gathering items. Rochelle Evanousky will be collecting **School Uniforms** to be distributed to those in need. The Sunday School will be collecting items again for Samaritan's Purse; they hope to send many more shoeboxes in 2012. Pastor Kistler would like to form a team to go to a recently flooded area and help the flood victims restore some order in their lives; what an outing that would be!

We are constantly looking for new ideas and new people to help carry out those ideas. We ALL have something to offer; what would you like to do?

The Outreach Committee has been successful because YOU have reached out to us by donating money and items for our many events and projects, AND because you were willing to give of your time and ideas. Our successes are YOUR successes. We also thank the Culinary Crew who make our Rummage Sales, our tours, and our other events much more inviting and tasteful. If we could find a way to vent the smells from our kitchen throughout the town, we would be overrun at every occasion. Ells Davis, Gail Jones, Paul Fegley, and many others come up with the ideas and menus for the many events; their supportive crew try to outdo one another with one delightful morsel after another and they have great fun all the while, even when they are just doing the dishes. Wouldn't you like to be a part of that or a part of any of THIS?

There is so much going on with Outreach, some projects that people are working on which I may not know about or thought they were putting out their own Annual Report, so it's possible I've missed mentioning their names. Forgive me for that, and God bless you all.

Outreach Committee: George & Mary Ruth Taylor, Judy Brennan, Ellsworth Davis, Gail Jones, Deb Davies, Darlene Fetterman, Frances L. Stahl

Culinary Crew

We would like to provide a thank you to all who helped at the following activities...

- ✓ ***Epiphany***
- ✓ ***Congregational Brunch***
- ✓ ***Pork and Sauerkraut Supper***
- ✓ ***Lenten Fish Dinner***
- ✓ ***Dram Club Performance & Egg Hunt***
- ✓ ***Ascension***
- ✓ ***Goods & Stuff – Spring and Fall***
- ✓ ***Strawberry Social***
- ✓ ***Vacation Bible School/ Waffles and Ice Cream***
- ✓ ***Fall Fling***
- ✓ ***Confirmation***
- ✓ ***Bishop Zeiser's Visit***
- ✓ ***First Holy Communion***
- ✓ ***Dinner Theatre – “Godspell”***
- ✓ ***Expo and Soup Sale***
- ✓ ***Advent Community Breakfast***
- ✓ ***Caroling/ Cookies and Hot Chocolate***
- ✓ ***Christmas Crafts***
- ✓ ***Food Baskets for our Homebound***
- ✓ ***Installation of our new double wall ovens and dishwasher***

It turned out to be a very challenging year. We have another challenging year in front of us. We are asking you to come and help Zion fulfill its Mission Statement.

MUTUAL MINISTRY 2011

The Mutual Ministry, Pastor Kistler, and Church Council worked together on the Instrument of Peace (Conflict Reconciliation Procedure.) It was approved and added to the by-laws, Chapter 16, Discipline of Members and Adjudication June 26, 2011. Keeping in mind always Holy Manners when we come together in groups or one on one to listen to conflict and to be able to resolve with Christian Love for one another.

The Mutual Ministry had several meetings with individuals about their concerns and conflicts. We will continue to meet so those involved feel free to express different points of view and work with having our opinions heard and put to work for the glory of God.

One of the prayers in the Mutual Ministry Book said, as we evaluate one another and ourselves, give us insight and compassion. Enable us to speak with both courage and gentleness. And finally, eternal God, fill us with the hope and joyful anticipation for the future. May the work we do together in this process strengthen our congregation for ministry today and in the future. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Members of the committee are Gail Jones, Ells Davis, Fran Stahl, Judy Brennan, and Pastor Kistler.

Blessings,
Judy Brennan

PARISH EMPLOYEE RELATIONS TEAM (PERT)

The Parish Employee Relations Team completed work on the Parish Administrator's job description and issued a set of recommendations to Church Council that updated the pay for the position, changed office hours, reviewed paid holidays, established personal and emergency time, provided guidelines for an expanded monthly report to council, and suggested ways of improving communications. Looking ahead, PERT will review the Special Events Sexton and begin work on developing job descriptions for various volunteer positions in the congregation.

Submitted by,
Dave Fetterman, Steve Ristila and George Taylor

Church Historian 2011

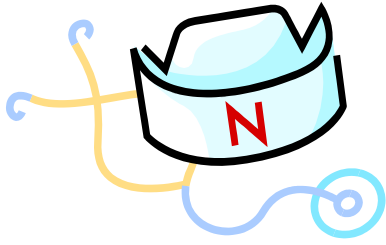
Once it was decided to have informative, factual, and interesting guided tours at Zion, I realized the only way to do justice to the tour scripts was to acquire a fair amount of knowledge of Zion's history. The more I delved into files, booklets, and talked with many of our members who had been coming to Zion for decades, the more I realized I had inadvertently become our church's historian. Alma S. Fisher had done it in the past and I'm sure there were others because with each special occasion of our church, someone gathered information and added it to the bulletin or brochure commemorating that event. Alma had put together some scrapbooks and picture albums. Some of the information that I found was torn and needed a bit of repair and reorganizing. That information and much, much more was placed into several 3-ring binders for ease in handling, display, and maneuverability to keep the information in the proper order and to easily add to it. In fact, I am still working on those binders as church members continue to give me displays and stories from their past.

Our first **Tours** were given on December 10 during our **December Expo** which was run under the thoughtful planning of Lucy and Phil Gerace. The Tours and the event were very well received; we took in \$94 for tour donations and sales of Christmas ornaments-- the first money going into the **2012 Zion ER (Exterior Renovation) Fund**. During the tours, the binders, old record books, and pictures were displayed for all to see. We will continue to give tours and display the historical material during various up-coming events. Thanks to Suzanne Cunningham, Mary Ruth Taylor, Timothy D. Stahl, and Timothy M. Stahl for giving those professional tours. Special thanks to those of you who gave me historic information, pictures, and tidbits on our history! Thanks also to Melody for copying things for the binders, answering many of my questions, and allowing me to disturb her as I went through many church files, brochures, etc. Much of the historical information that I had gathered was so interesting, I began writing OUR CHURCH articles for the bulletin each week; many of you have been reading them and have given me positive feedback about the articles. There will be more to come.

Just as preparing scripts for the tours developed into my becoming the church historian, having read and gathered the historical information, I found myself becoming more and more impressed with our past and felt that it should be shared with others, whether it was a fond memory or because it was something never heard before or to acknowledge those who came before us to give them credit for what they accomplished or for some other reasons. It occurred to me that something more formal than binders and displays was in order, something that could be used to serve two purposes--a way to raise money and a way to reflect our interesting history and share it with everyone. What better way to do this than put it into a book? We would use the proceeds, less expenses, as a fund-raiser for our 2012 Exterior Renovations. It is my hope that more than just Zion members would like to buy copies of it.

The next logical step is two-fold--naming the book and covering the costs to publish it. For a donation of \$5, you can submit your suggested Title for our church history book. A Collection Box and entry forms made by Gail Jones will be placed in the Gathering Room for several weeks to receive those. You can put in as many entries as you'd like as long as each suggestion is accompanied with \$5. Put your name on the paper and your suggested book title. Spread the word to members who cannot make it to church so they can get their entries in somehow. This is a special opportunity; take advantage of it, and if you have any last-minute history tidbits, pass them along to me, preferably in writing--nothing fancy, but something I can refer to and add to our book.

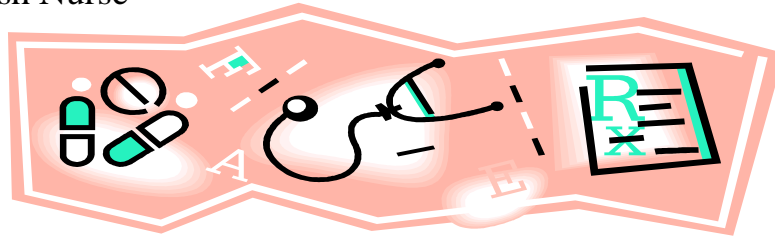
Frances L. Stahl
Church Historian



PARISH NURSE REPORT 2011

The Parish Nurse program completed another successful year. We provided blankets and baby items to Birthright and school supplies to the children of the Fields of Abundance Mission. We worked together with the Outreach Committee with the Angel Tree and collected personal items for the clients on the extended care unit at St. Luke's Hospital in Coaldale. These items were arranged in Christmas bags and distributed by members of Zion Church. We learned if hugs were dollars, we would be a rich church. We participated in the Cancer Associations Relay for Life with a booth at the Relay. We also had the largest group at the team march. Blood pressure screening will continue on the first Sunday of the month following the 9:30 church service in the church office. Information concerning health problems and local health programs are posted at the Parish Nurse Table in the Gathering room. Material about health issues such as flu shots and diabetic meetings and also current problems, such as bullying are provided as well. Thank you to everyone who assisted and may we continue to serve in the coming year.

Gwen Evans, Parish Nurse



The flower ministry is the joy of giving. The Shut-ins or anyone that receives the flowers can be sure that they are being prayed for and remembered by the Zion's Church family. Thank you for the flowers, they not only add beauty to the altar, they also give joy to the persons who receive them.

Blessing,
Judy Brennan
Zion's Flower ministry



CHOIRS, CANTORS, LECTORS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS GREETERS, WORSHIP and MUSIC COMMITTEE 2011

Zion has always maintained a meaningful and structured liturgy. We offer our worship service as a well-planned and effective way of becoming closer to God and lifting our voices in His glory and praise. Through the music, the scripture, the prayers, the message, and the holy meal we gain a stronger faith, find comfort and peace for the trials in our daily life, and grow in joy and love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Many volunteers help us with the liturgy, and we offer each of them our heartfelt thanks.

The Senior Choir continues to lead the liturgy and sing an anthem for most of the services. Rejoice and Sing Choir sings monthly and also combines with the Senior choir several times a year. Members of both choirs faithfully share their time and talents for rehearsals and services. We try to do a variety of musical style within our ability. This year we did a combined choir number that included drums, and two guitars, as well as an anthem featuring a trumpet. We offer our thanks to Brandon Clemson, Dave, Matthew, and Jonathan Hadesty for giving us their instrumental help. Senior Choir and Rejoice and Sing celebrated the Christmas season with a light luncheon and rehearsal at the Mehalko home.

The Sunday School choir continues to sing several times a year. We rehearse at the beginning of each class and sing for special services. This year, they also began learning a "Books of the Bible" song.

Our lectors, cantors, and communion assistants are so very faithful. They receive a schedule at the beginning of each year, and without any further reminders everyone comes at their time. I cannot begin to name each person for all the service they give, but I can extend my thanks, and that of the congregation to each of them.

We are also appreciative of the soloists who provide a message through song in the summertime liturgy. We are fortunate to have such talent here at Zion.

Seeing a greeter as they enter our sanctuary makes many people feel wanted. Whether saying hello to an old friend or extending an invitation to someone who is with us for the first time, greeters make people feel welcome in God's house at Zion, Tamaqua. Thanks to those of you who bring a smile, or handshake, or hug to those who enter our doors.

Worship and Music meets three or four times yearly to plan the outline of the services and discuss the liturgy. Their discussions make everything flow together smoothly. They also bring ideas and concerns of the congregation to my attention so we can strive to maintain the best worship we can plan. This group of people has a dedication to a Lutheran style worship service.

Looking forward to 2012, I bring the same concerns that many groups offer. I would like to have a few more voices in each choir. We rehearse and prepare well in advance, so even if you do not read music, you can learn your part and be part of a group who enjoys music. If you are comfortable reading in front of people, consider being a lector. The lessons are mailed to you ahead of time to give you time to prepare. I try to schedule most lectors only two or three times yearly. If you enjoy chatting with people, be a greeter. Their main task is to be there early and share a hello.

Finally, if you have a suggestion that you feel would make our liturgy even better (or a concern about something you do not like), please feel free to share that idea with the Worship and Music Committee or with me.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra W. Mehalko



Parochial Report - 2011

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
2/27/11	Kambrya Phoenix Yarish	Jeremy & Tiffany Yarish
4/3/11	Baylee Amy Marie Houser	Erin Blaukowitch & Michael Houser
5/8/11	Zaden James Bynon	James J. Bynon II & Sheri L. Spece
6/19/11	Piper Lee Klingaman	Christopher & Kristen Klingaman
6/12/11	Reiley Elizabeth Faust	Darvin Faust & Devon Graham
7/3/11	Sophia Anne Kupetz	Jennifer & Bernard Kupetz
8/14/11	Ryder Jay Moyer	Brook Moyer & Joshua Holmberg
9/18/11	Erin Rose Blaukowitch	Sponsor – Maxine Joy Houser
9/18/11	Trudy Kay Maue	Sponsors – Robert Maue, Jr. and Beth Lattanzi
9/18/11	Sarah Ann Maue	Sponsors – Robert Maue, Jr. and Beth Lattanzi
10/16/11	Brooklyn Lee Bugdanavage	Natasha Rutman and Todd Bugdanavage
11/13/11	Mason Thomas Mashack	Joe and Laura Mashack
12/4/11	Isabella Mae Keim	Ashley Bynon & Zachery Keim

Marriages

Date	Names
05/28/2011	Amanda Luna & David Hascin

Confirmations

Date	Name
2/13/11	Tyler Hope
2/13/11	Lloyd Schmerfeld
11/6/11	William Joseph Butler
11/6/11	Tyler Charles Hill
11/6/11	Lacie Lynn McManus
11/6/11	Matthew Thomas Sargent

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/20/11	James Benderawicz
	Kailyn Erbe
	William Frederick
	Peyton Gilbert
	Sierra Klinger
	Olivia Lattanzi
	Sarah Maue
	Destiny Nunemacher
	Gavin Richards
	Elizabeth Stahl
	Bronson Strouse
	Kayla Zamudio

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Date of Funeral
2/4/11	Member	Ardith Shea	2/10/11
3/3/11	Member	Emma Keilman	3/7/11
3/7/11	Non-member	Lorraine Koch	3/11/11
3/11/11	Member	Charles Wagner	3/15/11
3/15/11	Member	Louis D'Angelo	3/18/11
4/21/11	Member	Bruce Behr	4/26/11
4/22/11	Member	Marie Lorah	4/26/11
4/25/11	Member	William Jones	4/30/11
5/20/11	Member	Harriet Oakes	5/24/11
5/28/11	Member	Ellsworth Davis	6/1/11
5/29/11	Non-member	Carlson Hartz	5/31/11
6/6/11	Member	Marion Deitrich	6/9/11
8/28/11	Member	Sally Breiner	9/2/11
9/16/11	Member	Sabrina Hill	9/22/11
10/28/11	Member	Betty Hirsch	11/2/11
12/26/11	Member	Myrtle Burrell	12/30/11

Transfer In

Date	Name	From
2/13/11	David Hadesty	St. John's Lutheran Church , Tamaqua
2/13/11	Debbie Cibik	Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Petersburg, FL

Affirmation of Faith

Date	Name	Formerly
2/13/11	Harold Trevorah	St. John's UCC, Tamaqua
2/13/11	Beth Springer	St. Jerome's Catholic, Tamaqua
11/27/11	Timothy M. Stahl	St. Mary/ Coaldale

Released to Other Congregations by Commendation

Date	Name	Commended to
2/11	Jason Curvey	St. Peter's UCC, Barnesville

Reinstatement (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name	
2/13/11	Maria Derr	Restoration to Membership
3/21/11	Michael Yarish	Restoration to Membership
04/12/11	Michael Houser	Restoration to Membership
9/20/11	Brook Moyer	Restoration to Membership
9/20/11	Ruth Richter	Restoration to Membership
10/18/11	Todd Bugdanavage	Restoration to Membership

Sunday School 2011 Pre-School through 6th Grade



We started 2011 with a decline in attendance over the winter month. We finished out the school year on a positive note with a special show in the auditorium. The Amazing Magi, a Lutheran Pastor from Berks County, came to our church to fill in for Pastor Kistler. He brought his Bible based magic show to our auditorium after the service. This event was well attended by children and families. The Culinary Crew served lunch after the event in the Social Hall which was beautifully decorated with a magic theme by Alma Fisher.

Change is a good thing! We decided to try a new approach to Sunday School in the fall. With the success of our VBS in July, we wanted to continue that enthusiasm in Sunday School. Instead of meeting every Sunday throughout the school year, we broke it down to three smaller sessions. We also changed to one combined class that meets downstairs instead of smaller individual classes.

Our first session ran for eight weeks in September and October. The theme was *The Parables of Jesus*. After taking a break in November we had our second session *Family Advent Adventures* during the Sundays of Advent. The Sunday School kids combined with the Catechetical students to learn about the Christmas story. We will have one more session that will meet on Sundays in March and April. The theme for the spring session will be *The Miracles of Jesus*. All children and families are welcome.

Each Sunday School session opens with singing under the direction of Sandy Mehalko. They are learning The Books of the Bible song and they participated in the December Ministry of Music and the Christmas Eve service.

The children love making crafts! Each week we include a craft that ties in with the lesson. A big thanks to the grown-ups who volunteered to help out: Susan and Ernie Henritzky, Judy Brennan and Laura Fulmer. For the holiday season we made Christmas stockings and invited members of the congregation to join in the fun. Forty-eight of these stockings were delivered to the 5th floor of St. Luke's hospital.

I'd like to thank Beth Lattanzi and Gwen Evans who faithfully serve as Sunday School teachers and to Deb Davies who brought her teaching skills and creative ideas to help make Sunday School a success.

Our attendance with the new approach has increased our regular students to about fifteen. We would be delighted to see even more smiling faces in future sessions!

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Cunningham
Sunday School Team Leader

Vacation Bible School

On July 11, 2011-July 15, 2011 we were joined by St. John's Lutheran Church, to share our Vacation Bible School's Holy Land Adventure. We were blessed to have had 32 adults who helped with the many jobs of preparation and activities throughout the week. There were 78 children registered and joined us as we heard Bible stories, sang songs and did crafts that took us back to Hometown Nazareth- Where Jesus was a boy We learned that while Jesus was God's Son, he also had many of the same emotions and experiences that we do today.

Our pasture grew with sheep as we wrote down our God Sightings. In ancient Nazareth, a large flock of sheep was a sign of wealth or blessing. We looked for the ways God is present in things that He has done and made. We also practiced being a God Sighting by sharing God's love. Our pasture filled with sheep was a tribute to God's power and grace in our lives.

We also participated in Operation Kid to Kid where we will make a difference in the lives of other children less fortunate than us. The **Jesus Loves You** backpacks that we decorated each night were sent to our Field of Abundance Mission.

Our week ended with family and friends gathering for a program by the children. Together we paraded outside singing of God's love and blessing. This was followed by a Make Your Own Sunday social. Those involved in our VBS left filled with God's love and thankful for everything He has given to us.

Yours In Faith,
Deb Davies, Vacation Bible School Coordinator

Cleaning Angels 2011

I would like to report that Zion's Cleaning Angel Program has been above successful. Thanks to the very dedicated and loyal five cleaning teams the church has been sparkling. Zion's is truly blessed to have these people serve them. If anyone else is interested in joining our Angels please contact George Taylor or Kim Eckert.

Yours in Christ,
Kim Eckert

Relay for Life -2011

The Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society was held at the Hometown Farmers Market in June. Zion had a strong group of supporters who showed up with banners to walk the showed up with banners to walk the first "team" lap.

The Relay is a 24-hour event and this year will be held at Panther Valley High School Stadium. Zion's team is registered and any individual wanting to participate is welcome to do so. Watch for events in which you can donate to this community concern. Please consider donating your money or time to this event. Luminaries are available.

If interested, please contact me.

Thank you,
Mary Kay Davis

Christmas Food Baskets

Zion Members delivered 4 food baskets to families prior to Christmas 2011. Recipients graciously accepted these generously filled baskets.

A big thank you to Zion for extremely filling the baskets with donations of canned goods and turkeys. A thank you from a family who received a basket was read at church council

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Mary Kay Davis

Support Our Soldiers

Zion generously responded to the call for our soldiers by donating food items, toiletries, puzzle books and various personal items. Packages were sent as well as Christmas Cards from Zion Members, in the hopes that our military personnel will know that we at Zion have them in our thought and prayers. Thank you to all who generously donated to this outreach to our service personnel.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay Davis