

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA



Sunday School - 1875

Organized - 1876

Incorporated - 1899

ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2014

Annual Meeting, February 8, 2015

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2015



I. Opening Devotion - Pastor Goodwin

II. Establish a quorum - We need at least 30, so please be sure to sign the attendance paper.

III. Introduction of Church Council and welcome of visitors - Rochelle Evanousky

Council: Jim Batman, Deb Davies, Mary Kay Davis, Ron Dietrich, Paul Fegley, Darlene Fetterman, Phil Gerace, John Haldeman, Ernie Henritzky, Jim McRoberts, Frank Rudy, Gerry Zeigler.

Staff: Melody Casler - Parish Administrator

Dave Gensure - Treasurer

Ann Marie Hadesty - Financial Secretary

Interim Pastor - Rev. Virginia Goodwin

Intern - Vicar Cindy White

IV. Adoption of minutes of February 2014 and December 2014 meetings.

V. Reception of Financial Reports

Treasurer - Dave Gensure

Financial Secretary - Ann Marie Hadesty

Audits - Bob Jones

Motion to accept all financial reports.

VI. Reception of other reports

Chairs - introduce members of your committee

Additional comments or information to add

Questions entertained

Motion to accept all reports.

VII. State of the Congregation

Attendance report

Giving step report

Goals for 2015

End of the year report (See below in under IX)

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

Move downstairs for dedication of Fellowship Hall

Dedication of Fellowship Hall

End of year report - George Taylor

X. Adjournment and closing devotions



PARISH STAFF 2015


The Rev. Virginia Goodwin, Interim Pastor
Cindy White, Vicar
Sandra Mehalko, Parish Musician
Melody Casler, Parish Administrator
David Gensure, Treasurer
Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary
Kimberly Eckert and Sandra Graham, Sextons

COUNCIL – 2015

	Term	Ending	Position/Committee
Rochelle Evanousky	2nd	12/31/16	President/Finance
Paul Fegley	1st	12/31/16	Vice President/Outreach/Culinary
Darlene Fetterman	1st	12/31/15	Secretary/Culinary
Jim Batman	1st	12/31/15	Endowment/Finance
Deb Davies	2nd	12/31/16	Christian Ed/Youth/Intern Committee
Mary Kay Davis	1st	12/31/16	Outreach/Cradle Roll
Ron Dietrich	2nd	12/31/16	Property
Phil Gerace	1st	12/31/16	Evangelism/Christian Ed
John Haldeman	1st	12/31/15	Worship/Adult Ed
Ernie Henritzky	2nd	12/31/17	Christian Ed/Saturday Worship
Jim McRoberts	1st	12/31/15	Intern Committee
Frank Rudy	1st	12/31/17	Christian Ed/Youth
Gerry Zeigler	1st	12/31/16	Outreach/Culinary

PARISH LEADERS

Catechetical Coordinator - Deb Davies
Christian Education/Youth Leader - Beth Lattanzi
Christian Education/Adult Leader -
Youth Program Leader -
Property Committee Chair - Mark Valentine
Altar Guild Director - Sandy Graham
Acolyte Director - Art Connely
Assistant Acolyte Director -
Head Usher - Earl Klein
Sunday Service Leaders - George Taylor, Ells Davis, Mark Valentine, Gerry Zeigler
Track Rack Coordinator - Warren Schreffler
Parish Nurse -
Stewardship -
Volunteer Coordinator -
Outreach Leader - George Taylor
Finance Committee Chair - Robert Jones
Endowment Coordinator - Walter Weston
Worship and Music – Sandy Mehalko



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tamaqua, PA
Congregational Meeting
February 9, 2014**

The 2014 meeting was called to order by Council President, George Taylor at 10:35 a.m. A quorum was established with 36 recorded members. An opening prayer was offered by Suzanne Cunningham.

Current Council members and church staff were introduced. Present Council members were: George Taylor, Judy Brennan, Deb Davies, Mary Kay Davis, Rochelle Evanousky, Paul Fegley, Phil Gerace, John Haldeman, and Gerry Ziegler. Absent were: Jim Batman, Ron Dietrich, and Ernie Henritzy. Staff members were all present: Melody Casler - Parish Administrator, Dave Gensure - Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty - Financial Secretary.

Report of the Secretary: A motion to accept the minutes of the February 2013 meeting was made by Gerry Ziegler with a second by Isabelle Houser. All were in favor. A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2013 budget meeting was made by Bob Jones with a second by Judy Brennan. All were in favor.

Financial Reports: George asked that attention be given to the Giving Step Report. We have a total of 467 "giving units". He pointed out that if each giving unit would contribute \$350/ year, we would meet the expenses projected by our budget. Currently, only 17% are giving enough to meet our needs.

The audit for 2012 has been completed by Bob Jones, Gerry Ziegler, and Lori Krell. The audit for 2013 and the audit of the Endowment Fund will be scheduled in the spring.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Paul Fegley and seconded by Jean Derr. All were in favor.

Committee Reports

Call Committee: Deb Davies reported that the committee is still waiting to hear from the synod about another potential candidate. They are willing to continue to work together until we get a right fit for Zion.

Care Corp: Gwen Evans and Mary Ruth Taylor decided to hold off on the Christmas donations and wait until Valentine's Day to distribute gifts to the residents on the 5th floor of St. Luke's. They are looking for volunteers to go with them on February 12th at 2:00 p.m. to visit the residents.

Christian Education: Deb Davies reported that there are currently 14 students in confirmation class. They are currently preparing for the Youth Service that will be held on May 11th. Deb explained that she will also be holding a Lenten Series much like the "Road to Bethlehem" that was held during Advent. The Putz will be transformed into the Resurrection by the students.

Cradle Roll: Mary Kay Davis reported that we would like to see the children that were baptized in the past year, being brought to church.

Worship and Music: Sandy Mehalko thanked all who helped with this committee in the past year.

Culinary: Eells Davis reported that Culinary would like to expand. They are open to new ideas, new recipes, and new activities.

Blanket Ministry: Judy Brennan reported that the blanket ministry will begin again in the spring. She told us of how appreciative those individuals were that have received blankets.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Laura Fulmer and seconded by Isabelle Houser.

State of the Congregation:

John Haldeman questioned how much money was lost from the Endowment Fund in January 2014. Walter Weston reported that \$11,268.00 was lost due to the fluctuating stock market.

Those present were asked to view the attendance report. It was obvious that attendance has fallen in all areas, even special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter.

The Goals for 2014 were reviewed. A lengthy discussion ensued about possibly spending money on a projector and audio system. Some felt that the money could be better spent on the sanctuary or used towards a new pastor's salary. Others spoke about the "cost" of not moving forward and continuing to work on our many projects that reach out to not only our members but also to our community.

Old Business: There was a motion from council to table the adoption of ELCA proposed changes to the congregational constitution for further review. All were in favor.

New Business: John Haldeman reported that the use of the church for the funeral of Dorothy Epler was denied. Melody and George had no knowledge of this. Sharon Haldeman reported that Pastor Goodwin denied the use of the church. Pastor Goodwin will be contacted to see what had transpired.

Mike Springer volunteered to put together a crew of volunteers to clean the church sidewalks in the event of an emergency, such as a funeral.

John Haldeman reported that he had returned all of the honorariums given to him for leading our church services back to the church, thus saving the church approximately \$3,000.

Isabelle Houser made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Laura Fulmer. Meeting adjourned. All present were invited to take part in the covered dish luncheon held immediately afterward.

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Evanousky
Church Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by president, George Taylor. A quorum was established with 51 recorded members. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Virginia Goodwin.

A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Isabelle Houser and seconded by Deb Davies. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on February 9, 2014 was made by Laura Fulmer and seconded by Judy Brennan. Motion passed.

A motion from the Congregational Council recommended the adoption of the 2015 Expense and Revenue Budgets as presented. All were in favor; motion passed.

A motion from the Congregational Council to approve the constitutional amendments per an ELCA directive. Nay -1. Aye -All others. Motion passed.

George Taylor and Judy Brennan were thanked for their past years of service to the church as outgoing members of the congregational council.

The slate of candidates for the congregational council were presented. Since there was no opposition, the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot. A motion for a vote of affirmation for the candidates, Ernie Henritz and Frank Rudy, was made by Art Connely and seconded by Paul Fegley. All were in favor. Ernie Henritz will be serving his second 3 year term, while Frank Rudy will begin his first term.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Kay Davis and seconded by John Haldeman. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Evanousky
Church Council Secretary

Committee Goals for 2015

Property

General

- Seek additional members to serve on the property committee

Parsonage

- Interior painting – third floor bedrooms and first floor powder room.
- Exterior painting- front/back porches-garage door
- Backyard needs some attention-leaves, weeds – Whites have mower

Exterior

- Revive exterior restoration project – wall above chapel area needs attention

Interior

- Install second handicapped pew
- Install directional signage throughout the church
- Repair damaged back room
- Review choir room leak issues
- Install door closer replacement
- Paint pastor's office
- Handicapped accessible basement bathroom

Cemetery

Parking

- Continue to explore options

Finance

- Continue to encourage members to participate in e-giving
- Encourage members to remember our church in their wills.

Christian Education

- Explore and implement educational opportunities for youth, adults, and families.



Pastor's Annual Report January 2014 – December 2014

For I know the plans I have for you – plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29: 11

Don't we all want to know what God has in mind for us? Or maybe we don't. We might be rebellious and start to argue with God over God's plan. We might try to live differently – maybe better. But why would knowing God's plan for you make you want to live differently? Shouldn't we always try to do the right thing all the time?

That's where Zion finds itself today - trying to do some things differently. But are all those different things better or are they worse or are they just different? We changed our worship time in 2014 to 9:00 am allowing the children to hold their Sunday school at 10:15. Previously, we did not have a Sunday school for those from 3 years to 11 years. We did not have an ongoing adult class and now we do. From God's perspective – is this better? I would think God says, "Yes! This is better".

At the same time as Sunday school the parents and others gather to discuss what the confirmands are learning along with brainstorming for new and different (there's that "D" word again) ideas to keep their children engaged in the church. Is this group something new? Yes it is. How do you think God feels about such a gathering every Sunday? You have had a new Interim Pastor this past year – I have felt warmly received into your midst. Thank you for your generosity and hospitality. Is there a difference since my coming? Yes, each time someone new comes to serve you things will change.

We did not have a Vacation Bible School this year. We want to have one in 2015, but that will take people who are willing to help and participants who want to come. Perhaps we need to look at a different time or way to have Bible School.

However, we were able to have two very exciting and well attended Advent and Lenten programs for several weeks prior to Christmas and Easter. These were inter-generational and gave families the opportunities to discover the journeys for these sacred holidays together.

Most of what I mentioned above is about Christian Education. Zion certainly had many more activities other than Christian Education in 2014. The council took a huge leap of faith and agreed to take on an intern for the next 18 months. There will be a committee who will work with Vicar Cindy White through this time as she prepares for ordination. The six persons who are serving on the committee are charged to nurture her to be ready for God's mission in the world. And each one of us should also be ready to offer support, guidance and charitable forgiveness to her as she learns how to be a pastor. I have been asked by Bishop Zeiser to stay on and supervise/mentor her. Having a vicar living in the parsonage will certainly be different for Zion.

Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." All of God's churches are called from the Bible to be the light of Christ in the world. When we do something at Zion we need to ask ourselves, "Are we being the light of Christ in the world?" And then we need to ask, "What does what we do mean to the rest of the world?"

God's plan for us is to be the light of Christ in the world. How we treat each other, what we say to each other, what we say to others around town about the church all reflect on the dimness or brightness of the light of Christ we are emitting in the world.

The light of Christ will continue to shine at Zion Lutheran Church if each of you recommit to the purpose and importance of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Working side by side in this effort for the good of the whole church is what God has called each of us to do. I pray that every one of you lets the light of Christ shine through you to grow God's church here on earth. That is what we are called to do in God's plan.

Pastor Ginny

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – 2014

Ordained pastor and leadership consultant John Maxwell talks about a “leadership lid.” That’s the idea that an organization is limited by the quality of its leadership. Good leadership leads to productivity and growth. Weak leadership to stagnation and decline. As leadership grows, the organization grows, too.

That explains why we spent a great deal of time this past year with Church Council reading and talking about leadership skills and spiritual growth. Growth generally happens when we leave our comfort zones. We’ve read books, articles and essays. We watched speakers and discussed how their messages relate to our congregation. We’ve encouraged Council members to make significant contributions to congregational life and we’ve asked them to help set and meet goals. I’m pretty sure Council members will continue to grow as will our congregation because of their growth.

One of the books I shared with Council is Macolm Gladwell’s “The Tipping Point.” Gladwell examines numerous situations where something is in the works but needs to reach a particular point – the tipping point – before the idea or plan becomes reality or the novice becomes the star.

With Vicar Cindy White serving her internship here at Zion under the mentorship of the Rev. Virginia Goodwin, with the addition of Darlene Fetterman, Frank Rudy and Jim McRoberts to Council and with the direction of Rochelle Evanousky as Council president, I cannot but help feel Zion is close to the tipping point of becoming the congregation God wants us to be. A stronger congregation. A vibrant congregation. A congregation that loves God and shows that love to its members, to the community and to the world.

While we did develop a mission statement when Pastor Kistler was still here, I’m not so sure we have a clearly defined role here in Tamaqua. The authors of “Simple Church” report that healthy, growing congregations all have something in common—focus. Everything they do revolves around several key concepts: love God; love others; and serve. Healthy, growing congregations discover ways to turn those ideals into action within their congregations, their communities and the world.

Here’s the challenge: we need to discover what God’s plan is for Zion in Tamaqua. What specifically can Zion be for Tamaqua, do for Tamaqua, that no one else can be or do? That’s a challenge we can work on and pray over together. And when we know the role we are to play, we will be even closer to the tipping point.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

George Taylor
Council president

CHURCH COUNCIL Goals for 2014

Call a pastor who meets the specific needs and visions of this congregation

Implement a stewardship program

Explore and implement Christian education/discipleship programs to include

- Children/family • Youth • Adults

Develop a membership strategy that targets

- welcoming and engaging new members
- involving young members in the congregation and community
- addressing the issue of inactive members
- engaging families of recently baptized children

Seek a helper coordinator

Continue to update the congregational membership directory

Develop a family room next to the Gathering Room

Equip the Social Hall or Gathering Room for alternative worship.

Purchase and install a defibrillator and train up to 8 persons (staff and volunteers) how and when to use it.

Explore and implement opportunities to publicly promote the Gospel in Tamaqua.

Adopted by Church Council: Jan. 23, 2014

GOALS FOR 2015

All committees are encouraged to set their own goals for 2015 which will also help to achieve the goals not realized from 2014. (Christian Ed, Finance, Outreach, Property, and Worship and Music)

Implement a Stewardship Program

Seek a Helper Coordinator

Explore and implement opportunities to publicly promote the Gospel in Tamaqua

Develop a membership strategy that targets:

- welcoming and engaging new members
- involving young members in the congregation and community
- addressing the issue of inactive members
- engaging families of recently baptized children

STEWARDSHIP 2014

The Stewardship Committee presented a challenge to the congregation in the spring in place of a sermon. They requested each person re-examine their commitment to Zion and consider the opportunity that Zion has to grow in faith, discipleship and offerings.

The committee is hoping to be more visible in 2015 encouraging those who do not attend every week to consider E-Offering as an option for a regular monthly/weekly giving pattern to ensure a steady stream of offerings for Zion. Please take a few minutes to investigate this simple way to help your giving to Zion as we continue to look toward a future in the new world of new options. You do not have to have a computer to use E-Offering. The "E" means electronic.

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. **WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?** Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to myEoffering and set up your offering. More information is found in the Gathering Room or on the website www.zionlutherantamaqua.com

Ask anyone on Finance or Stewardship for more information or if you have questions.

2014 Finance Committee

Jim McRoberts

Darlene Fetterman

Meeting highlights

January

- ✓ Approved a one-year contract with the Rev. Virginia Goodwin for Sundays and 8-10 hours of pastoral care and guidance
- ✓ Adopted goals for 2014

February

- ✓ Began discussion of the book “Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore”
- ✓ Approved the installation of a digital projector in the Social Hall

March

- ✓ Approved the use of myEoffering for automatic giving
- ✓ Discussed possibility of a parking lot
- ✓ Began First Impressions project to make building more visitor friendly

April

- ✓ Approved payment for Zion members taking CPR/AED training

May

- ✓ Approved increasing Saturday worship leader Cindy White’s honorarium from \$50 to \$80 (plus \$20 travel expenses)
- ✓ Plans approved for congregational picnic at West Penn Park
- ✓ Reviewed goals for 2014

June

- ✓ Reviewed Synod Assembly report from Jim McRoberts
- ✓ Discussion on the concept of “leadership”

July

- ✓ Addressed same-sex marriage and weddings. Zion will follow same procedure as is followed now for heterosexual couples.
- ✓ Discussed “Renew and Renovate” from The Lutheran magazine.

August

- ✓ Approved moving Sunday church starting time from 9:30 to 9 a.m.
- ✓ Adopted “Spiritual Maturity Proposal” from Christian Ed to revive Sunday school, engage confirmand parents, and initiate adult life groups.
- ✓ Approved a new Zion flyer

September

- ✓ Bishop Zeiser spoke about the procedures that would need to take place for Cindy White to complete her internship here at Zion. Questions were entertained.
- ✓ Approved a motion to have Cindy White complete her internship here at Zion beginning in January 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

October

- ✓ Discussed the article “Why Are We Here?” and readings from “The Tipping Point” and “Simple Church”
- ✓ Reviewed Zion’s mission statement.

November

- ✓ Reviewed plans to ready the parsonage for intern’s family
- ✓ Viewed and discussed “Why Good Leaders Make You Feel Safe” TED Talk
- ✓ Heard reports on community showing of “When God Left the Building” film.
- ✓ Unanimously approved 2015 budget.

December

- ✓ Approved representatives attending a Learning Ministries workshop at Hope Lutheran, Cherryville, in January
- ✓ Viewed and discussed “Be an Opportunity Maker” TED Talk.
- ✓ Reviewed 2014 goals

George Taylor, Church Council president

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH INTERNSHIP 2015-2016

Training to become a pastor in the Lutheran church includes a year- long full-time internship in a congregation that understands its calling to raise up new pastoral leadership in the church. Interns learn by engaging directly in ministry under the mentorship of a supervising pastor, and by receiving feedback and support from the congregation. A central component of this congregational support is the lay internship committee.* Our committee is composed of Jim McRoberts, chair and Beth Lattanzi, Deb Davies, Walter Weston, Judy Brennan, Laura Fulmer, Kelsey Zamudio and Cindy White. Pastor Goodwin will be her mentor.

The Committee and the Congregation need to provide opportunities for experience, learning, and growth in every aspect of parish responsibility. During her stay with us Cindy will preach, teach, counsel, administer, worship, sing, solve problems, visit, evangelize, promote, evaluate, and experience every other aspect of parish life and ministry. Our job as a congregation is to be as supportive of Cindy, her family, her ministry and her learning experience as we can.

The Northeast Pennsylvania Synod, Gettysburg Seminary, and Cindy have negotiated an agreement to modify the normal one-year full-time internship to one of eighteen months at twenty hours per week during the spring and fall semesters (so that she can complete her coursework at the Seminary) and full-time during the summer. Cindy and her family are residing in our parsonage during her internship.

*Luther Seminary,2009

Vicar White's Annual Report

God's grace and peace to the family and friends of the house of Zion. For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting ... allow me to introduce myself. I am Cindy White, your new Vicar. I feel most blessed to be doing my internship with you over the next year-and-a-half. I am currently attending Gettysburg theological seminary and will be serving your congregation 20 hours a week while completing my studies. (Anticipated graduation June, 2016)

Here is a little bit about my history and my family. I am originally from Philadelphia and a graduate of Temple's school of Social Work. I moved to Allentown in 1993. I have spent the past 25 years as a counselor in numerous settings. My most recent, was as a child care counselor at KidsPeace. I was employed there for 15 years and loved working with the children. I considered all of my jobs a vocation and felt I served God in each one.

I felt called to ministry at a very young age (around 15); however, God had other plans. My husband, Richard Krieg and I have three beautiful children. I am sure there will be opportunities for you to meet all of them over the next year-and-a-half. Our youngest child turned 11 when I began seminary studies three years ago. Timing seemed right, after a great deal of prayer and discussion with my Pastoral mentors at my home church, Nativity Lutheran in Allentown.

My mother is originally from Nuremberg, Pa. I have passed through Tamaqua for many years visiting relatives. My Pop Pop Ulshafer was a coal miner as were several of my uncles' at the Derringer mine. I hold this area and her people in high regard, as I know and have seen what mining communities have experienced over the years. I have never met a more generous or hard working people. My family and I are blessed to be here serving you and the larger community with God's help and guidance. Speaking of guidance, Pastor Goodwin will be mentoring and supervising me my entire internship. I believe Bishop Zeiser made a very wise decision gifting me with Pastor Ginny as my teacher.

Here are a few fun facts about me; however, I do expect some teasing when I share the fact that I LOVE the Eagles and Phillies. Well, I am from Philadelphia after all. I am a musician who appreciates all types of music. I play guitar and flute. I am a big animal lover. (I don't even kill stink bugs ... I set them free to the outside!!) We have a 16-year-old Siamese cat named Anakin (yes our oldest daughter loved Star wars). My children will tell you, he is one of the great loves of my life. I am a voracious reader and a great appreciator of the arts. This gives you some initial information about your Vicar. I look forward to meeting you all and spending time with you as we discern God's continued, exciting call to Zion Tamaqua.

A sincere thank you to all who helped with preparing the parsonage and helping when we moved in on the 29th of December. The dinner you prepared and fellowship were wonderful!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Church,

Peace, Vicar Cindy and family

Care Corp 2014



Care Corp's project in 2014 took place around Valentine's Day. Personal care items were donated and distributed to residents of St. Luke's Personal Care Unit. Each resident also received a Valentine's card. The project was coordinated by Gwen Evans and Mary Ruth Taylor. Darlene Fetterman and George Taylor also assisted with the visit.

Gwen Evans and Mary Ruth Taylor

Cradle Roll Report 2014

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 19 infants enrolled. The Pack includes an age appropriate music CD and Parent Pages newsletters which are sent bi-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 mailing, please contact the church office.

Looking forward to serving Cradle Roll members and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Davis

Christmas Food Baskets

There were a total of 7 baskets of food with gift cards delivered the week prior to Christmas. Another gift card was accepted with the recipient preferring the food go to a family more in need. All expressed deep appreciation to Zion for the outreach.

A sincere thank you for the generous monetary donations, the Joyful Noise offerings as well as the food donations including turkeys and canned goods. Your generosity is a blessing. A small gesture can make a big impact. Zion should feel good about this Outreach!

This project is looking to offer baskets again within a few months as Zion hopes to reach out to those in need not only at Christmas and the 4th of July. If you know of a family in need, please contact the church office. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration in your offerings when the opportunity is presented.

A **Welcome to Zion/Tamaqua** basket was presented to Vicar Cindy White and family as they excitedly moved into the parsonage before the New Year. How great is this that this building had become a home again? God hears us and answers. Our prayers need to be with our Vicar during this transition.

Thank you again and God Bless,
Mary Kay Davis

PARISH STATISTICS

WORSHIP SERVICES

162	2006
131	2007
117	2008
112	2009
108	2010
106	2011
106	2012
92	2013
112	2014

SUNDAY SCHOOL

68	2006
37	2008
20	2009
20	2010
15	2011
12	2012
50	2013
45	2014

	2013	2014
Baptized Membership	963	953
Confirmed Members	614	607
Confirmed Members Who:		
Communed	284	211
Did Not Commune (of record)	330	396
Contributed	286	280
Did Not Contribute (of record)	328	327
Communed AND Contributed	213	154
Neither Communed NOR Contributed	258	194
Communed Did Not Contribute (of record)	51	24
Contributed Did Not Commune (of record)	81	126
 Non-Confirmed Communing Membership	 20	 11
 Members received by Baptism (Child)	 9	 4
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	0	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	2	6
New First Communicants	6	7
 Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer		
(Baptized)	5	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	2	0
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by		
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	0	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	0	0
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	0	0
 Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	 0	 0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	6	6
(Confirmed)	2	5
Member Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0
 Members who were taken by Death	 8	 8
Non-Member Deaths	0	2
 Marriages	 2	 1



Property Report for 2014

The Property Committee at Zion handles the care and maintenance of the church, parsonage and cemetery.

Church: In addition to routine maintenance, a major restoration of the Social Hall is nearing completion. The hall has been painted and new window coverings installed. A digital projector is in place and is used for the Saturday evening worship service. New padded chairs are also in place. An AED has been installed in the upstairs Gathering Room and the enclosed wheelchair lift required some major repair work. Property is currently reviewing plans to place a handicapped accessible bathroom in the basement along with reviving discussions on the exterior restoration. An interior signage project is also in motion. We completed one of two pew areas for persons attending Sunday church in wheelchairs. Pews have been shuffled around instead of actually shortening them.

Parsonage: While the structure is in good condition, several projects were done to prepare for Vicar Cindy White to move her family to Tamaqua. The downstairs floors were refinished along with the stair steps leading to the second floor. New flooring was installed in the kitchen and first-floor powder room. Some wall repair work is being done. This spring some interior and exterior painting will be done. Help is always welcome. Thanks to the volunteers who cleaned the parsonage and helped Vicar White with the move in to the parsonage in late December.

Cemetery: Ron Dietrich and Rick Bachman oversee the care of Zion's cemetery at the top of Dutch Hill next to the Little League field. They coordinate an annual spring cleanup and then mow and trim the grass during the summer using a professional grade mower purchased two years ago by the church. They, too, would welcome help.

Parking: When the property at the corner of Mauch Chunk and Greenwood streets went up for sheriff sale, a group began meeting to explore the possibility of purchasing three properties for parking. Borough engineer Dan Schroeder took part in the discussions and invited an engineering firm from the Scranton to visit the site and offer suggestions. No formal report has been issued. The property has been purchased and it looks like improvements are being made to it. We moved the handicapped unloading area a car-length up Greenwood Street and we began placing cones at the upper Mauch Chunk Street doors to provide a drop off zone. Members are encouraged to park wisely Sunday mornings and not leave too much space between cars.



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

Zion Finance Committee Report 2014

Robert Jones, Chairperson; Steven Ristila, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary; George Taylor, Council President; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Walter Weston, and Council Member Jim Batman serve on Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Finance Committee.

This was another busy year full of challenges for the committee. In January the contract with Interim Pastor Goodwin was approved and sent to Council for their consideration.

One of the goals for this year was to consider alternative giving methods, i.e. Automatic payments, debit/credit cards, Paypal, Simply Giving through Thrivent. Different options were explored and the choice was made to go with Eoffering.com.

Since we now hold services in the social hall on Saturday night we saw a need to update the facility. A bid to install a new sound system and projector from Multi Media Staging Inc. for \$6,771.27 was accepted and sent to Council for approval.

Finance met with the Property Committee in May to discuss two issues. One was the Church's electricity supplier. When the electric rate tripled we looked at rates from different suppliers. In the end the decision was made to stay with UGI after they locked us in at a fixed rate of .08305 for 12 months and gave us a \$175 rebate.

The second issue had to do with the parking situation. For years the idea of purchasing nearby property to construct a parking lot has been promoted. Now there was the possibility of purchasing properties at the lower corner of Mauch Chunk and Greenwood Streets, demolishing them and building a parking lot. A fairly detailed report was undertaken to get an idea of what it would cost to purchase, demolish, and grade the three properties to construct a parking lot. After reviewing the figures and much discussion it was determined that the project was just not feasible.

In September Bishop Zeiser presented the proposal to have Cindy White, Seminarian student at Gettysburg Theological Seminary and leader of our Saturday night service, serve as an Intern for 2015. The financial package was discussed and approved by Finance and sent to Council for approval.

Budget preparation began in September and was approved by the Congregation at the annual budget meeting in December.

Information on the Amazon Smiles program was given to Finance and a motion was made and approved to join this program. Amazon Smiles gives opportunity for people to donate to Zion when making purchases on Amazon. More information will be available to the Congregation on this.

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2014

Needed for Weekly Budget: \$3138.46

Budgeted Income needed YTD: \$163,200.00

Budgeted Income Received YTD: \$140,143.43 Includes *\$18997.87 from culinary
*\$14633.00 from endowment

Budget Ahead/ (Behind): \$(23,056.57)

Budget Expenses: YTD: \$132,221.50

Budget Actual Ahead/ (Behind) \$7921.93

Actual Income YTD: \$154,161.12

Actual Expenses YTD: \$159,032.74

Actual Ahead/ (Behind): \$(4,871.62)

From the above figures you will see that Budgeted Income Received did not meet what was needed to meet the budget thus resulting in a shortfall of \$23,056.57.

The Budget included the pastor's salary. If we had been paying a pastor for the full year and there was no change in Income we would be facing a \$23,056.57 deficit.

When you compare Actual Income Received with Actual Expenses you see we ended the year with a deficit of \$4,871.62. We hope to see improvement within the next few months.

In the end of the year appeal letter that went out the week of Christmas we talked about the plans God has for Zion's and our hope for the future. I would like to show how much you and your Church have shared our financial resources with others who, without us to help, would have to look to someone else to fill the void.

ELCA Committed Benevolence	\$5,604
Hazleton/Lehigh Mission Dist.	\$ 180
Outreach	\$3,653
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 467
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 279
Joyful Noise/Missionary	\$1,051
World Hunger	\$1,321
Harvest Home	\$ 204
Tamaqua Ambulance	\$ 100
Tamaqua Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$ 100
Tamaqua Fire Police	<u>\$ 100</u>
Total	\$13,059

We are a blessed people as God uses our Church Family to make a difference in this world. Those are just the numbers and do not include the time and effort that people put into these projects to make them happen. We may face many challenges in the New Year, but we have an Interim Pastor and a Vicar to lead us as we go forward. Exciting things are happening At Zion's. No doubt costs will continue to rise in many areas. The Finance Committee will continue to make sure funds are spent wisely. Contributions to various funds in the way of memorials and honorariums to loved ones are appreciated. Again we thank the congregation for their continuing financial support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Jones, Finance Committee Chairperson

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2015 BUDGET

	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
ELCA Benevolence Committed	\$5,600.00	5,604.00	\$5,600.00
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.	\$180.00	180.00	\$180.00
Donations	\$300.00	300.00	\$300.00
Total Commitment	\$6,080.00	6,084.00	\$6,080.00
 Pastor Expenses			
Pastor Salary	\$30,853.00	14,995.00	\$34,800.00
Pastor Transportation Allowance	\$2,000.00	5,178.91	\$4,900.00
Pastor Health/Dental			
Pastor Other Expenses (Intern)			\$1,850.00
Pastor Pension	\$5,357.00		
Pastor Social Security Allowance			
Pastor Continuing Education	\$500.00	20.00	\$500.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$12,000.00		
Pastor Furnishing Allow.			
Vacation Supply	\$1,000.00	4,335.00	\$600.00
Total Pastor Expenses	\$51,710.00	24,528.91	\$42,650.00

	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
Lay Staff Exp			
Parish Administrator	\$15,600.00	14,688.00	\$15,600.00
Organist/Choir Dir.	\$8,453.00	8,778.24	\$8,453.00
Maintenance Sexton	\$1,000.00	620.00	\$1,200.00
Sexton (general cleaning)	\$5,429.00	5,637.87	\$5,429.00
Service Sexton	\$0.00		
Financial Secretary	\$2,400.00	2,492.37	\$2,400.00
Treasurer	\$3,000.00	3,115.26	\$3,000.00
Cemetery Secretary	\$200.00		\$200.00
Grounds Keeper			
Sunday School Coord			
Medicare/Social Security Taxes			
Total Lay Staff Exp	\$36,082.00	35,331.74	\$36,282.00
Administration			
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	1,657.93	\$1,500.00
Office Equipment	\$628.00	18.99	\$600.00
Mailings	\$700.00	709.90	\$800.00
Equipment Maint/Inspection	\$800.00	1,079.67	\$1,800.00
Accounting Fees-H&R Block	\$1,400.00	1,365.00	\$1,400.00
Advertising & Media	\$200.00	437.70	\$500.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	\$500.00	609.00	\$800.00
Total Adm. Exp.	\$5,728.00	5,878.19	\$7,400.00
Property			
Fuel Oil	\$20,000.00	22,758.41	\$28,000.00
Electricity	\$4,000.00	4,239.77	\$5,200.00
Phone	\$1,300.00	1,191.08	\$1,300.00
Internet	\$0.00		
Property Repairs/Maintenance	\$3,200.00	2,013.62	\$3,500.00
Equip. Purchase	\$500.00	129.29	\$500.00
Sexton Supplies	\$500.00	365.70	\$350.00
Water, Sewer, Refuse	\$1,500.00	1,598.00	\$1,700.00
Cemetery/Mower Expenses			\$2,200.00
Total Property	\$31,000.00	32,295.87	\$42,750.00
FUND EXPENSE BUDGETED			
Improvement Expenses			
Cemetery Maintenance	\$2,200.00	2,193.91	\$0.00
Organ Repair Expenses	\$480.00		\$480.00
Culinary/Kitchen			
Helping Hands/Pastor Discretion			
Total Fund Expense	\$2,680.00	2,193.91	\$480.00
Insurance			
Employer Share Taxes	\$2,800.00	2,690.81	\$2,800.00

	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
Insurance	\$16,000.00	14,833.00	\$16,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$1,000.00	1,061.00	\$1,100.00
Total Insurance	\$19,800.00	18,584.81	\$19,900.00

Worship and Music

Music	\$150.00		\$150.00
Licenses/Copyrights	\$1,350.00	1,566.88	\$1,500.00
Communion Supplies	\$500.00	3.97	\$500.00
Candles	\$500.00	573.26	\$500.00
Flowers/Palms	\$250.00	584.85	\$400.00
Bulletins	\$100.00	143.12	\$100.00
Acolytes	\$100.00		\$100.00
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies	\$500.00	769.84	\$500.00
Ministry Materials	\$300.00	432.82	\$500.00
Piano/Organ Maint.	\$720.00	370.00	\$720.00
Total Worship & Music	\$4,470.00	4,444.74	\$4,970.00

Christian Education

Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies	\$200.00	116.88	\$500.00
Adult Education	\$500.00	227.93	\$500.00
Youth Education	\$200.00	184.38	\$200.00
Church Council/Executive Council	\$250.00		\$250.00
Vac. Church School	\$300.00		\$300.00
Total Christian Education	\$1,450.00	529.19	\$1,750.00

Stewardship & Evang

Offering Envelopes	\$2,500.00	1,930.37	\$2,500.00
Stewardship	\$500.00		\$300.00
Total Stewardship & Evang	\$3,000.00	1,930.37	\$2,800.00

Social Ministry

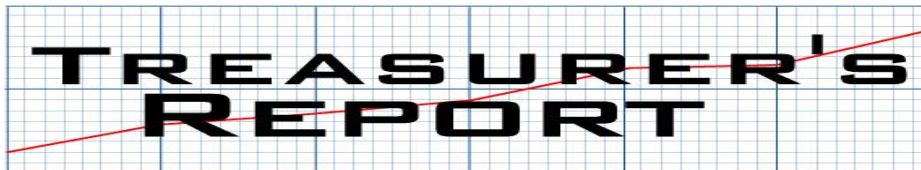
Parish Nurse	\$100.00	0.00	\$100.00
Total Social Ministry	\$100.00	0.00	\$100.00

MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS

Bank Charges	\$50.00	77.00	\$75.00
Special Events	\$300.00	4.55	\$300.00
Health Benefit Account			
Miscellaneous	\$750.00	338.22	\$500.00
Total Misc Budgeted Accounts	\$1,100.00	419.77	\$875.00

GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS	\$163,200.00	132,221.50	\$166,037.00
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	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
Non-Budgeted Misc			
Accts			
ELCA Benevolence		467.05	
World Hunger		1,321.00	
LWR		279.00	
Missionary/Joyful Noise		1,051.47	
Scholarships			
Annuity Expense			
Harvest Home		204.00	
Misc Pass Through Expense		259.39	
Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts	\$0.00	3,581.91	\$0.00
 FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED			
Culinary Expenses		2,899.78	
Helping Hands Expense		600.00	
Improvement Expense		16,314.60	
Ministerial Expense		264.00	
Outreach Expense		3,095.29	
Senior Choir Expense			
Scholarship Fund Expense			
Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted	\$0.00	23,173.67	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$163,200.00	158,977.08	\$166,037.00



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Contribution Account Balances (January thru December 2014)

Account	YTD Balance
100 - Current	95,861.22
101 - Initial Envelope	567.00
102 - New Year's Day Envelope	76.00
103 - Birthday Envelope	223.00
105 - Improvement Fund	14,307.94
110 - Endowment Fund	3,602.50
112 - Rummage/Bake Sale & Match	1,488.95
116 - Oil Fund	2,615.60
120 - Scholarship Fund	5.00
125 - Flowers	448.00
131 - Benevolence	467.05
136 - Herald/ Bulletins	855.00
138 - Use of Facility	150.00
142 - Plate offering	3,709.09
147 - Joyful Noise Offering	1,181.82
150 - Candles	177.00
151 - Baccalaureate Service Offering	147.00
154 - Culinary	12,045.29
165 - Helping Hand Fund	181.00
166 - Cemetery	412.00
168 - All Saints	102.00
169 - Reformation	195.00
170 - Organ Fund	170.00
171 - Current Memorial/Honorarium	3,531.00
172 - Advent Envelope	134.00
173 - Christmas Envelope	3,035.00
174 - Thanksgiving Envelope	412.00
175 - World Hunger Fund	1,321.00
176 - Lutheran World Relief Envelope	279.00
177 - Ash Wednesday Envelope	429.00
178 - Lenten Envelopes	1,038.45
179 - Maundy Thursday Envelopes	353.00
180 - Good Friday Envelopes	223.00
181 - Easter Envelopes	1,968.00
182 - Ascension envelope	527.00
183 - Pentecost envelope	213.00
184 - Harvest Home	209.00
187 - Reimbursement	591.00
188 - Senior Choir Offering	417.00
191 - Thrivent Fund	2,403.00
193 - Outreach	1,427.33
195 - Misc Pass Through Contribution	146.00
	\$157,644.24

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Giving Step Report

Giving Step Report: 01/01/2014 - 12/31/2014

Giving Range

\$0.00 - \$0.00	Count: 175
\$0.01 - \$52.00	Count: 81
\$52.01 - \$104.00	Count: 26
\$104.01 - \$156.00	Count: 16
\$156.01 - \$208.00	Count: 21
\$208.01 - \$260.00	Count: 8
\$260.01 - \$312.00	Count: 19
\$312.01 - \$364.00	Count: 5
\$364.01 - \$416.00	Count: 9
\$416.01 - \$468.00	Count: 1
\$468.01 - \$520.00	Count: 3
\$520.01 - \$780.00	Count: 15
\$780.01 - \$1,040.00	Count: 10
\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00	Count: 4
\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00	Count: 13
\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00	Count: 3
\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00	Count: 1
\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00	Count: 4
\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00	Count: 1
\$3,640.01 - \$4,680.00	Count: 2
\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00	Count: 0
\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00	Count: 2
> \$6,240.01	Count: 2

Where do you fall on this chart of giving units in our congregation?

Granted, a “giving unit” varies from household to household. A husband and wife can be a giving unit. If only one is a member at Zion, he/she is a giving unity. Children with their own envelope numbers are giving units.

Let’s not quibble about giving unit designation nor should we dwell on the bottom numbers. Let’s look, instead, where we are as active members of this congregation.

What would it take for each of us to move up one step this year? What would that mean to the congregation?

Not everyone comes to church every week. Some in fact only show up on Christmas and Easter and we’re just glad they do feel a need to worship with us on those Holy Days.

While worship is an important part of one’s spiritual life, we’re not going to criticize people who don’t worship regularly. Still, those who show up two times a year or once a month need to understand they have a financial responsibility to the congregation *every week* regardless of attendance. And unless they recognize and honor that financial responsibility, the church may not be here when they do choose to attend a service.

Last March, Church Council approved the use of myEoffering, an easy way for members to financially support Zion ministries. It's much like the automatic payment many have for regular bills such as electricity. For more information, visit the church website or call the Parish Office at 570-668-2180 and information will be mailed to you.

Stewardship is more than a financial matter – it's a spiritual matter. Each of us must consider what God is calling us to do in terms of how we use our given gifts. How can we better use those gifts to benefit others in 2015?

Stewardship and spiritual growth are tied together. And so an emphasis on Christian Education and spiritual growth is an important goal for this congregation this year. Our growth as disciples need not end with First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Perhaps you will make it a personal goal this year to take advantage of spiritual growth opportunities offered by the Synod, Zion and other churches in the community.

Churches are often criticized for failing to come to the aid of a person or family in need but all too often those criticisms are issued by individuals or families that have not become engaged in their congregational family. Being an engaged member of the congregational family starts with regular worship attendance, but it doesn't end there.

Perhaps you will make it a personal goal this year to become a more active, engaged member of Zion by becoming a Cleaning Angel, or a member of the Culinary Crew, or the Senior Choir, or the Rejoice and Sing chorus or the Property Committee. The list goes on and on. The rewards of involvement are many, but, unfortunately, few potatoes never experience that joy, the fellowship or sense of belonging that involvement brings.

Our growth as a congregation largely depends on your growth as a disciple. Make 2015 a year of growth.

Audit Report 2013

The Audit Committee is comprised of Lori Krell, Gerry Zeigler and Robert Jones. The Committee reviewed the following records for Calendar year 2013:

- General Ledger
- M & T Bank Statements
- Bank deposits
- Money Market Account

The Audit Committee verified bank statements against deposit slips, reviewed and verified all canceled checks for authenticity in relationship to invoices and receipts. The Committee verified M & T beginning and ending balances with the General Ledger. Money Market transactions and beginning and ending balances were verified.

The Audit Committee is pleased to report they found no inconsistencies in the financial books of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Krell, Gerry Zeigler, Robert Jones

Checking Account

M & T Beginning Balance 01/01/2013	\$11, 149.35	\$11,149.35
Zion General Ledger 01/01/2013	\$9,153.00	
Add Checks written in 2012, cleared in 2013	\$1,996.35	\$11,149.35
M & T Ending Balance 12/31/2013	\$17,714.65	\$17,714.65
Zion General Ledger 12/31/2013	\$14,758.57	
Add Checks written in 2013, cleared in 2014	\$2,956.08	\$17,714.65

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
570-668-2180



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Audit Report

The Endowment Fund, hereby referred to as "The Fund", of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua, is a separate Fund which has been administered by Walter Weston, Steve Ristila, Jim Batman and Robert Jones. Paul Pecha resigned in 2014 after serving for over 14 years.

In April 2012 the Endowment Fund's Portfolio was turned over to Mark Serrian with Oppenheimer in Pottsville. The portfolio is now in a Unified Managed Account. In then became apparent that with the investments of the Fund being placed with Oppenheimer the Endowment Committee should become a Sub-Committee of Finance. The Bylaws to reflect this were changed and approved by the Congregation at the December Finance meeting.

In April 2014 an Endowment Audit committee comprised of Lori Krell, Gerry Zeigler and Robert Jones was appointed and began working on the audit.

The Fund receives donations through gifts, memorials and various other contributions. All donations are received by the Financial Secretary, entered into Church Windows and deposited into the Fund's account.

The scope of the audit was records from 2007 thru 2013. The committee examined the Fund's account held by M & T Bank. All contribution records and deposit slips were compared for accuracy in reporting. The Committee reviewed all bank reconciliations verifying the beginning balance of each month matched the ending balance of the previous month, confirmed the end of year bank balances agreed with end of year ledger balances. The Committee found all deposits were made in a timely manner. Our review also included examination of all entries, investments of stocks, mutual funds, CD's, and disbursements for all accounts in these years.

The Audit Committee is pleased to report they found no inconsistencies in the financial books of the Endowment fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Krell
Gerry Zeigler
Robert Jones

ENDOWMENT FUND 2014 REPORT

The fund was started to conservatively invest money, mainly donated in members' wills and current donations in honor/memory of loved ones. We thank you for gifts this year of \$3602.50.

Everyone knows that present interest rates are very low. Last summer our committee decided to switch money from all of our bond mutual funds to high dividend stock funds. This change has since increased our interest/dividend income. Our investment returns for 2014 was a positive 4.43%.

Looking at historical data

Fund start value	4/12/2000	\$309,693
Fund ending value	2014	\$343,785
Previous distribution to Zion's		\$254,294
Our gift back to Zion's	2014	\$ 14,633

Fund Importance

The above 2014 distribution provided almost 10% of last year's income.

Walter Weston----- founding member

Social Hall Project Monday, December 8, 2014 A Vision for All

At a Saturday evening church service, Ida Piccin looking around the room noticed the deterioration of the exterior wall. For years the plaster has been cracking and flaking off the wall and ceiling. She made a comment about how noticeable, unsightly and depressing the condition the area was in, and how it appears to others when we have church services and other community events in the hall.

When she attended the Saturday service (August 9th), she observed the area around one of the windows had changed. The wall was smooth, clean, and freshly painted. She and others expressed amazement as to how nice that area has been changed. That one small area showed what the whole wall could look like.

It began when one person devoting a week of removing the loose plaster, filling in the area with fresh plaster, sanding, cleaning and painting that one small area.

Ida started to make phone calls for others to help in the project. She made nearly 20 calls and by the end of the second week there were now three working on the project. It was slow going for the next three weeks. However, things were about to change for the better. At the Saturday evening church service, one of the worshippers asked if we could use more help. She mentioned that her husband's occupation was a plasterer and he would be willing to help. He rebuilt the triple window section. Patching, sanding and cleaning the walls and the ceiling continued and was completed by the first week in October.

The painting began on November 3rd and continued until December 5th. The window blinds were installed on Friday, January 9th.

Thanks for the following workers who made Ida's vision come true.

Ells Davis	Robert Fisher	Paul Fridirici
Art Connely	Charles Long	Ron Dietrich
Dennis Christman	George Taylor	

OUTREACH 2014

Zion's Outreach Committee is an umbrella for groups that share God's love with our congregation, the community and the world.

Care Corps members visit our home- and hospital-bound members.

The Blanket and Prayer Shawl ministries serve both congregation and community. Last year, over 100 blankets were made and distributed to area shelters and services.

The Culinary Crew provides food for congregational activities and sponsors special meals open to the community.

Our Christmas Basket Ministry received enough support to provide holiday food baskets for seven Tamaqua area families.

The Flower Ministry distributes the altar flowers to home-bound members when the sponsor does not need them.

Goods N Stuff sponsors two rummage sales a year which both serve the community and raise funds which are split between Outreach activities and the general church fund.

Zion had teams in both the Tamaqua Hunger Walk and the ACS Relay for Life. This marked the 20th year of Zion's participation in the ACS event.

Our Joyful Noise Ministry benefits congregational, community, regional and world-wide needs. One example is KIVA, an organization which makes small loans available to women in developing nations. The loans are repaid and the money becomes available for another loan. Joyful Noise recipients for 2014:

Jan-Tamaqua Public Library 77.50
Feb- Tamaqua Meals on Wheels 86.58
March- Summit Hill Food Bank 58.12
April- Hunger Walk- Tamaqua Area Community Partnership 258.82
May- Relay for Life American Cancer Society 120.79
June- Helping Hands 60.35
July- God's love, we deliver 66.25
Aug- ELCA Good gifts Honey Bees global barn yard 103.30
Sept- Harvest Home Trinity 78.11 (+204=282.11)
Oct- Hillside SPCA 86.38
Nov- Christmas Baskets \$115.62 (+ 520= 635.62)
Dec- 2015 Christmas Baskets \$70.00

Outreach has also made contributions to Schuylkill Women in Crisis (\$300), the Zion Helping Hand Fund (\$400), the Tamaqua DARE program (\$100), ELCA war-zone school (\$100), TAFFN for "When God Left the Building" (\$50), Kairos/Outside prison ministry (\$50), and Lutheran Congregational Services (\$100).

Outreach also distributes Share Our Surplus Network items to families with needs. Items include diapers, laundry supplies and bottled water.

2014 Culinary Events

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

- ✓ *January 3 – Shredded ninety heads of cabbage for our Sauerkraut Dinner*
- ✓ *February 1 – Super Bowl Soup and Hoagie Sale*
- ✓ *February 9 - Congregational Brunch*
- ✓ *March 11 –Sauerkraut Supper*
- ✓ *March 19 - Lenten Fish Dinner Haddock*
- ✓ *March 30, April 6, 13, 20 –Lenten Sunday Breakfast*
- ✓ *April 2 - Lenten Fish Dinner Salmon Cakes*
- ✓ *April 11 - Easter Egg Hunt*
- ✓ *April 19–Pie Sale*
- ✓ *May 9 and 10 - Spring Goods & Stuff*
- ✓ *May 18 – Bethany’s Walk Against Hunger, Provided Refreshments*
- ✓ *June 8 - Confirmation, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *June 19 – Strawberry Social*
- ✓ *August 16 – Saturday Soup & Sandwiches*
- ✓ *August 27 - Peach Social*
- ✓ *September 7 – Congregational Picnic*
- ✓ *September 17 – Apple Fest*
- ✓ *September 27 – Saturday Soup & Sandwiches*
- ✓ *October 10 and 11 – Fall Goods & Stuff*
- ✓ *October 25 – Saturday Soup & Sandwiches*
- ✓ *November 22 – Saturday Soup & Sandwiches*
- ✓ *November 23 - First Holy Communion, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 – Church Advent Program, Provided refreshments*
- ✓ *December 5 – Finished construction of our Putz Display*
- ✓ *December 13 - Advent Community Breakfast*
- ✓ *December 19 – Sleep Over – Pizza Making*
- ✓ *December 30 – Shredded One Hundred heads of cabbage for our Sauerkraut Dinner in 2015*

Culinary Financial Report for 2014

We purchased six new tables and three waffle makers at a cost of \$870.80. We transferred \$18,997.87 from our account to the Church’s account.

Thank you for all your support in 2014!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC 2015

Choirs, Cantors, Lectors, Soloists, and Communion Assistants

Zion has continued another year of leading worship services that glorify God through our talents and time. I am grateful for all the volunteers who help to lead our liturgy. I am constantly pleased by the attendance of lectors, cantors, and communion assistants who come each time they are scheduled without any reminders. I also am thankful for the soloists who offer their voices in praise.

The Senior choir continues to provide the foundation for the music in our services. They sing every Sunday and rehearse regularly, using their talents to uplift, inspire, and praise. They are the most dependable and capable group of people any choir director could ever wish to lead. Health concerns, however, have made it difficult for some of our longtime members to continue to sing with us. We thank Marion Klein, Sheldon and Mary Shafer, and Kathleen Valentine for the many, many years of service they gave to their Lord through the choir. We also mourn the passing of Jean Derr who sang with us for 80+ years. They left a huge gap in our ranks, but I am pleased to thank Sharon Haldeman and Vicar Cindy for joining us in the choir loft.

This year we have increased the participation of young persons in the leadership of our services. Along with the annual "Youth Service", we have several lectors and a cantor who serve regularly. Also, the Christmas Eve 6:00 PM service had several young persons taking part as cantor, lectors, and leaders, and it was a great experience for everyone.

Serving as a worship leader is an important role that does not take a large time commitment. If you are able to read a lesson or enjoy singing or can assist with serving communion, please consider joining us. Contact me on any Sunday morning or call me at home, and I will add you to our schedule. Our worship is one more way to give our Lord our praise and honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra W Mehalko



Parochial Report - 2014

Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
12/15/13	Jackson James Faust	Stacei (Zancofsky) & Kyle Faust
8/3/14	Holly June Marsteller	Eric and Amy Marsteller
9/14/14	Emmett Heatter	Joseph and Ashley (Christman) Heatter
11/16/14	Nicolai Jace Oberman	Eugene Oberman and Devon Waldrop

Marriages

Date	Names
9/27/14	Kyle Berezwick & Megan Ingraham

Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
2/4/14	Member	Dorothy Epler	94	2/8/14
4/13/2014	Member	Ruth Richter	60	Private Internment
6/21/2014	Non-Member	Jason Hahn	22	6/27/14
7/4/2014	Member	Jean M. Derr	88	7/9/2014
7/7/2014	Member	Allen Breiner Jr.	69	7/10/2014
8/13/14	Non-member	Elizabeth Oberholtzer	94	8/22/14
9/11/14	Member	Harriet Williams	89	9/16/14
10/1/14	Member	Gertrude Fritzinger	84	10/4/14
11/2/14	Member	John H. Brown	95	11/7/14
11/6/14	Member	Robert H. Koch, Jr.	71	11/13/14

Confirmations

Date	Name
6/8/14	Luis Fernandez
	Antonetta Gerace
	Gabrielle Markiewicz
	Tyrone Rarick
	Devan Valentine
	McKayla Wall

First Holy Communions

Date	Name
11/23/14	Ross Connely
	Brianna Dumond
	Alexa Fegley
	Isabellea Moyer
	Briana Wagner
	Kallia Wall
	Tiffany Wetherell

Withdrawn (Parish Statistics Adjustments)

Date	Name	
4/16/14	Judy Zehner	Requested by individual
4/16/14	Melvin Zehner	Requested by individual
4/16/14	Amy Zehner	Requested by individual
6/14/14	Barbara Melnick	Requested by individual
11/17/14	Kristen Zizelmann	Requested by individual
11/17/14	Evelyn Zizelmann	Requested by individual/Baptized not Confirmed

CHRISTIAN ED 2014

Recognizing the needs to develop a culture of discipleship at Zion, discussion began last summer of ways to foster spiritual development in all age groups.

Throughout the fall, an adult group met following the Sunday service sharing ideas on the sermon and on the Gospel reading for that day.

A formal Sunday school program was re-introduced and ran until a family-oriented Advent program began at the end of November.

Confirmation parents spend time together discussing parenthood as well as the confirmation process and program. The parents have taken an increased role in aiding confirmation leader Deb Davies.

Ideas are welcome regarding Christian Ed at all levels.

Confirmation Class activities – 2014

I'm always amazed at how quickly each year goes and how much the confirmands grow in their faith and understanding of how God wants us to live our lives. With the temperature dropping in January and February we moved our Confirmation class into the library where everyone stayed warm. This was the start of a very busy time. We completed our lessons on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Our list of activities for the winter and spring included:

- Preparing and presenting a Lenten program based on the life and ministry of Jesus. This was opened to all members and was well attended. The Culinary Crew made food each Sunday and the fellowship shared was enjoyed by all who joined in the program.
- Preparing a sermon for the youth service and coming in on a Friday night to practice for the youth service that they led the Sunday after.
- Sang at the Easter Service.
- Helped set up for the Rummage Sale.
- Went on Friday nights to see the movies *"God's Not Dead"* and *"Heaven is for real"*.

On Pentecost in June, 6 youth were confirmed

As Confirmation classes began in September we had 9 youth in the 2nd year class and 8 youth in the 1st year class. This was a group that was very enthusiastic and anxious to get started and be a part of our church. It was exciting that at this time a new and vital group was started involving the parents of the confirmands. Our calendar was filled from September to December.

- Helped at a reception for 7 youth who received their First Holy Communion.
- An Advent Program was planned and presented by the confirmands – *"What is Advent?"* and *"What does it mean to us?"*.
- We went Christmas caroling on the 5th floor of St. Luke's Hospital and gave gifts made at our Advent Program.
- Helped set up for the Rummage Sale and helped work it when they could.
- Helped at the Community Advent Breakfast.
- Purchased a goat and water through Samaritans Purse.
- Sang at the Ministry of Music & Christmas Eve.
- Had a sleepover at the church on December 19-Although there was very little sleep.
- Helped Vicar Cindy and her family move in to the parsonage.

The future of our church is in the hands of our youth, looking at the faith and enthusiasm that this group has, I know that Zion has a bright future. As I am completing this report I am looking at my calendar and smiling at all of the things they have planned for 2015. I know why the future belongs in their hands - I don't have half the energy that they do. ☺ I pray that our congregation continues to support and encourage them.

Yours in Faith, Deb Davies, Confirmation Coordinator

Cleaning Angels 2014

Once again Zion's has been blessed with a truly dedicated group of volunteers. Our angels take great pride and devotion serving while cleaning the Lord's home. I could not ask for a better group of people. Remember the team of cleaning Angels is always looking for a few more souls to gain their wings. Come join the band of Angels.

Yours in Christ,
Kim Eckert

Relay for Life -2014

The **Relay for Life**: Zion had awesome enthusiasm for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life as it returned to the Tamaqua School District Stadium this past June. The weather was co-operative which helped to make Zion's **21st** year with this worthwhile cause a fun time.

This 24 hour event was met with a great opening relay lap by many of Zion's family and friends. There were many Zion members who walked the Opening Lap and were proud to represent the Zion banner that we have carried for many years.

I dislike mentioning names for fear of omitting, but Paul Felgey, Gwen Evans and Deb Davies were instrumental in making sure all the participants doing the laps had a pick from the gift basket. There were several memorable moments and the kids weren't the only ones who had a good time. Thank you Paul for initiating the special treats! I can't overlook the set-up and take down of the tents. THANK YOU!

I thank everyone who showed up at the stadium, walked a few laps, donated time and or money via a luminaria candle or memorial, and made a food or monetary donation. No matter how small the gesture.....it does not go unnoticed. And I truly apologize because the list of participants is toooooo long....You are all great when it comes to showing up. THANK YOU!!!! It is because of you that I still do what I do in the name of Zion!

I am challenging this year's Confirmand Class to step up and be a part of Tamaqua's ACS Relay. How will you respond?

More info to follow

Mary Kay

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

570-668-2180



Greeting and Merry Christmas!

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

These words from Jeremiah written so many centuries ago still inspire us today. God has plans for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tamaqua. We have seen His plans unfold in the past year. There is excitement at Zion's. Just think back to last year at this time. We had been without a Shepard to lead us. Then in January Pastor Virginia Goodwin was asked by Council to be our Interim Pastor. For the past year she has ministered to this congregation and is helping us fulfill our Mission Statement "to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ Through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community."

Soon we will have an Intern. Cindy White, the seminary student who has been leading our Saturday night service, is now our Vicar. In January she will become our intern and even more exciting is the fact that her family is moving into the parsonage! Her fifteen-year-old son will be a student at Tamaqua Area HS. She will be continuing her studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg with the goal of obtaining a Masters in Divinity in order to become a full time pastor.

Can you see God's plan unfolding for us?

Have you seen the newly painted Social Hall? Volunteers applied new plaster where it was needed and scrubbed off years of coal dust and dirt from the walls, pipes, windows and ceilings. The walls and ceilings have a new coat of paint. Soon new shades will hang over the windows. The video projector and enhanced sound system have added a new element to the Saturday contemporary service.

The second part of our Mission Statement is "We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers." Again we see God's at work at Zion's. Youth are becoming involved. Seven young people received their first Holy Communion in November.

The Confirmands are leading the Family Advent Program in which their parents are actively involved. How exiting it is to see the young people and their parents working together on the crafts and sitting down to enjoy breakfast prepared by Zion's Culinary Crew.

You don't think God has a plan for Zion? Think again and then consider this: "Where am I in God's plan for this church I belong to?" Don't you think God has a plan for you, for your life, too? Maybe a particular plan for you Church life? Give some thought; pray on it. Then join your Zion family this Advent season as we all together prepare for the birth of Christ.

Come with us on the Advent Journey. Worship with your Church family on these Sundays and on Christmas Eve. See what role you play in God's plan for Zion Lutheran Church. These are exciting times at Zion, we hope you will be a part of them.

Yours in Christ,

Your friends at Zion Lutheran Church