

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EAST PETERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CONGREGATION  
2023**



**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

# **Table of Contents**

	<b><u>Page No.</u></b>
Parish Council President's letter.....	2
2023 Congregation Meeting Agenda.....	3
2022 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	4-5
Special Meeting Minutes.....	5
Treasurer's Report.....	6
2024 Proposed Budget.....	7-9
Pastor's Report.....	9-10
Church Council President's Report.....	11
Director of Music Report.....	12

## **Committee Reports**

Christian Education.....	12-13
Evangelism.....	13-15
Fellowship.....	15
Finance.....	15-16
Health, Safety & Security.....	16
Outreach.....	17
Property.....	18-19
Stewardship .....	19-20
Worship & Music.....	21-22

## **Task Force/Sub-Committee Reports**

Memorial Committee.....	22
InformationTechnology.....	23-24

## **Organizations & Other Ministries**

Skeins & Scones: Prayer shawl Ministry.....	24
ZEST.....	25
Zion's Angels/Relay for Life Team .....	25
Zion's Quilters.....	25

## **In Memoriam**

Remembrance of those who have passed.....	26
---	----



## ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1905 Broad Street, East Petersburg PA 17520

Pastor: The Rev. Pam Illick

Phone: (717) 569-1359

E-mail: church@zionaep.org

October 1, 2023

Dear Zion Members,

Our Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at approximately 10:15 AM following the 9 AM worship service. Please note the change from the usual 10:30 time to 9 am for this worship service. There will be no Sunday School activities before church. The meeting will also be live streamed, and voting can occur on our zoom page.

Enclosed is the 2023 Annual Report to the Congregation, which includes a report from Pastor Pam, committee reports, and the proposed 2024 annual budget. Please take time to review the Annual Report to see what has happened this year and help us prepare for 2024 together.

In accordance with Zion's Constitution, 33% of the voting membership is required for a quorum. Voting members are defined as those who are confirmed and who, during the preceding calendar year, have communed and made a contribution of record to the church.

On behalf of the Congregation Council, I want to thank everyone for your prayers, time, and talent that you have shared with Zion and the community this year. Our members have shown dedication to each other as well as those in our community and beyond.

We look forward to being together at this important congregational meeting. Together we can discuss and decide upon our budget as well as the future of Zion in 2024. We look forward to seeing you in person or online on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for worship and our meeting.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Wagner

Congregation Council President

# **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **East Petersburg, PA**

Annual Congregation Meeting – November 12, 2023

### **AGENDA**

Call to order – approximately 10:15 a.m. (following 9:00 a.m. service)

Announce Quorum

Prayer – Pastor Pam

Approval of November 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Approval of May 14, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

2024 Budget Presentation

Committee Reports: Address any questions or concerns

Presentation and Election of Council Nominees

Unfinished Business

New Business

Election of 2024 Synod Assembly Representatives

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

## **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Council President Lindsey Wagner called meeting to order.

**Quorum:** Parliamentarian John Chesters noted that quorum has been met.

The meeting is being presented in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom via livestream and telephone and is being recorded.

**Prayer:** by Pastor Carnes

**Approval of Annual Meeting November 14, 2021 minutes:** Motion by Lee Ober to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Lisa Flood. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Long for Barb Breneman

- General fund giving is up compared to 2021.
- Spending is under budget for the first 9 months of 2022.
- Hard to compare to the past two years during the pandemic as well as switching of staff positions.
- Giving is less than the operating expenses by about \$21,000 for the first 9 months.

Motion by Charlie Houck to approve the treasurer's report as present. Second by Mary Chesters. Motion carried.

**2023 Budget:** Don Long:

- Requested to committees on tightening the budget not to eliminate programs but making smart choices. Committee is realistic that some things like utilities will need to increase.
- 2023 Budget is about \$13,000 less than 2022.
- In 2022, the finance committee and council approved a formula for pulling money out of the investment. This year it will be about \$17,000. This is a safety net for any emergencies but to help with end of the year shortfalls if needed.
- The finance/property committees also has a list of ongoing special property projects. This year there is a \$10,000 item for sidewalk replacement along Lemon Street. The Borough is requiring everyone along Lemon Street to replace broken pieces since they are repaving the road. We will get bids in early 2023 since it will need to be replaced by August 31, 2023. Council will make the final decision once we get bids but will probably do a special appeal in 2023 to help pay for it.

Motion by Lee Ober to approve the 2023 budget. Second by Shawn Serfass. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:** Committee reports were part of the Annual Report. No questions.

**Recognition of Outgoing Council Members:**

- Thank you to Sam Maurer stepping into the position mid- term and starting up the fellowship committee again in the middle of a pandemic.

**Presentation and Election of Council Nominees:**

- 3 council seats for 3-year terms open. Nomination for Charlie Houck, Cameron Mondock and Lindsey Wagner to fill those seats. No additional nominations from the floor.

- Motion by Glenn Hess to close nominations. Second by Emilie Krause. Motion carried.
- Motion by Todd Silliman to elect Charlie Houck, Cameron Mondock and Lindsey Wagner to council for three-year terms. Second by Steve Witter. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:**

- Approval of the updated Constitution and Bylaws
  - o Motion by John Snoke to approve the updated constitution and bylaws. Second by Janet Hoover. Motion carried.
- Election of 2023 Synod Assembly Representatives
  - o Motion to elect Jessica Gumbert and Sam Maurer with John and Mary Chesters as alternates by Lisa Flood. Second by Pat Crawford. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Shawn Serfass. Second by Charlie Houck. Motion carried.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Lindsey Wagner

## **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 14, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Council President Lindsey Wagner called the meeting to order.

**Quorum:** Parliamentarian John Chesters noted that quorum has been met.

The meeting is being presented in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom and is being recorded.

**Prayer:** by Lindsey

**Purpose:** At the April 12<sup>th</sup> special council meeting, the following motion was made and approved.

Motion to recommend calling the candidate, Pastor Pamela Illick, and her compensation package within synod guidelines to the congregation.

Pastor Beth Martini, assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, explained the process and ballots were handed out.

After the count, Pastor Martini announced a vote of 84 yes to 0 no.

Pastor Pam Illick has been called to be the next pastor at Zion Lutheran – East Petersburg.

Lindsey thanked the call committee – Lisa Flood (chair), Bev Bachman, Connie Bloss, Jessica Gumbert and Lee Ober, Pastor Martini and the council for their help through this process.

Motion to adjourn by Lisa Flood. Second by Steve Witter. Motion carried.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Lindsey Wagner

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church East Petersburg**  
**Treasurer's Report - Overview of Key Financial Info**  
**YTD September, 9 Mos., 2023 v 2022 (10/6/23)**

	<b>2023 - 39 Sundays</b>	<b>2022 - 39 Sundays</b>	<b>'23 Fav/ (Unfav) to '22</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Total of giving (ex '22 bequest)	205,254	177,281	27,973 15.8%
"Restricted" revenue:			
Memorial Fund	1,766	536	1,230
Cemetery & Mem Garden	1,500	750	750
Spec'l App'd Prop Projs	14,820	3,617	11,203
	18,086	4,903	13,183
"Designated" revenue:			
Synod	798	5,086	(4,288)
Sponsorships	2,097	1,732	365
Other	-	950	(950)
	<u>2,895</u>	<u>7,768</u>	<u>(4,873)</u>
Total rev toward Budget	<u>184,273 *</u>	<u>164,610</u>	<u>19,663</u> 11.9%

\* YTD, 39 weeks, pro rata 2023 Budget is \$184,383 (annual Budget \$250,545) - \$90 under Budget

<b>Expenses:</b>			
Total expenses (ex Power Pack)	179,636	193,158	13,522
Disbursement of "designated" rev	<u>3,162</u>	<u>7,486</u>	<u>4,324</u>
Total expenses v Budget	<u>176,474 **</u>	<u>185,672</u>	<u>9,198</u>
<b>Unrestricted rev more/(less) than exps</b>	<u>\$ 7,799</u>	<u>\$ (21,062)</u>	<u>\$ 28,861</u>

\*\* YTD, 9 months, pro rata 2023 Budget is \$187,909 (annual Budget \$250,545) - \$11,435 under Budget

**Summary of Operating Cash Availability:**

Cash accounts:	85,316
Less:	
Restricted giving balances:	
Memorial Fund	15,130
Spec'l Approved Prop Projects	7,572
Cemetery Fund	<u>20,787</u>
	43,489
Deferred revs/liabilities:	
Grab & Go	502
Concert Series	1,075
Pastor's Discretionary	1,377
Youth	<u>1,446</u>
	4,400
<b>"Operating" cash available</b>	<u><u>\$ 37,427</u></u>

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH EAST PETERSBURG, PA**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 (10/11/23)**

10:48 AM

	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD '23 SEPT ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACT'L % OF BUD'T</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2024 BUD'T</u>	<u>\$ CHANGE</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
<b>ZION'S SERVICE/BENEVOLENCE/OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>						
Benevolence:						
LSS Mission Support	13,000	9,964	76.6%	13,500	500	3.8%
Lanc Co Council of Churches/Food Hub	300		0.0%	300	-	0.0%
Community Meals	1,000	-	0.0%	1,000	-	0.0%
Lutheran Camping Assoc				525	525	
East Petersburg Fire Co	300	-	0.0%	300	-	0.0%
Pastor's Outreach & Discretionary	-	-	-	500	500	
Misc Outreach Support				300	300	
Service Ministry	50	-	0.0%	-	(50)	-100.0%
Other Benevolence	-	1,343		-	-	
<b>ZION'S TOTAL OUTREACH COMMITMENT</b>	<b>14,650</b>	<b>11,307</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>16,425</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
<b>ZION'S REGULAR MINISTRIES</b>						
Witness Commitment - Evangelism						
Promotional Materials	500	153	30.6%	500	-	0.0%
New Member/Guest Care	300		0.0%	600	300	100.0%
Backpacks	400		0.0%	200	(200)	-50.0%
Stephens Ministry Materials	500		0.0%	500	-	0.0%
Refreshments	200	-	0.0%	100	(100)	-50.0%
	<u>1,900</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>8.1%</u>	<u>1,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Service Commitment						
Fellowship Comm - Gen'l	300	46	15.3%	500	200	66.7%
Youth & Family Ministry Committee	100	-	0.0%	100	-	0.0%
	<u>400</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>11.5%</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>50.0%</u>
Education Commitment						
Lesson materials & supplies	150	-	0.0%	250	100	66.7%
Vacation Bible School	100	50	50.0%	100	-	0.0%
Camping/camperships	1,500	-	0.0%	1,500	-	0.0%
Confirmation	200	-	0.0%	1,700	1,500	750.0%
Adult Education Materials	150		0.0%	150	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous		56		100	100	
	<u>2,100</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>81.0%</u>
Worship Commitment						
Altar Supplies	500	801	160.2%	900	400	80.0%
Music	1,000	555	55.5%	1000	-	0.0%
Devotional Booklets	460	336	73.0%	475	15	3.3%
Piano / Organ Maintenance	-			1000	1,000	
Choir gifts	-	-		-	-	
Guest Musicians	1,500	325	21.7%	1500	-	0.0%
Liturgy Licenses	1,200	805	67.1%	1200	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous (incl Bulletins/Sponsorships)	300	2,105	701.7%	350	50	16.7%
	<u>4,960</u>	<u>4,927</u>	<u>99.3%</u>	<u>6,425</u>	<u>1,465</u>	<u>29.5%</u>
Other Ministries						
Skeins & Scones Ministry	300	105	35.0%	400	100	33.3%
<b>ZION'S TOTAL REG MINISTRIES COMMITMENT</b>	<b>9,660</b>	<b>5,337</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>13,125</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>35.9%</b>
<b>ZION'S SUPPORT TOWARD ITS MINISTRIES</b>						
Pastoral Ministry						
Salary	50,000	30,917	61.8%	34,310	(15,690)	-31.4%
Housing Allowance	19,000	16,708	87.9%	30,000	11,000	57.9%
Automobile Reimbursement	3,500	1,794	51.3%	3,700	200	5.7%
Continuing Education	700	-	0.0%	700	-	0.0%
Health Insurance	5,352	3,568	66.7%	5,484	132	2.5%
Death & Disability Insurance	1,270	815	64.2%	696	(574)	-45.2%
Pension	8,996	5,750	63.9%	8,357	(639)	-7.1%
Social Sec Supplement/reimb	5,720	3,907	68.3%	5,331	(389)	-6.8%
	<u>94,538</u>	<u>63,459</u>	<u>67.1%</u>	<u>88,579</u>	<u>(5,959)</u>	<u>-6.3%</u>

10/13/2023  
10:48 AM

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH EAST PETERSBURG, PA  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 (10/11/23)**

	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD '23 SEPT ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACT'L % OF BUD'T</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2024 BUD'T</u>	<u>\$ CHANGE</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
Subtotal - Pastoral Ministry	94,538	63,459	67.1%	88,579	(5,959)	-6.3%
Operational Ministry						
Pastoral Supply	800	1,135	141.9%	1,200	400	50.0%
Organist/Choir Director	24,480	18,360	75.0%	25,459	979	4.0%
Dues/Cont. Ed/Day Away	500	555	111.0%	500	-	0.0%
Organist Supply	650	300	46.2%	1,500	850	130.8%
Parish Secretary	13,724	11,443	83.4%	15,523	1,799	13.1%
Financial Secretary	1,452	1,089	75.0%	1,510	58	4.0%
Treasurer	1,452	1,089	75.0%	1,510	58	4.0%
Sextons	13,646	10,234	75.0%	14,192	546	4.0%
Supply Sexton	1,050	1,350	128.6%	1,180	130	12.4%
Council Secretary	649	108	16.6%	675	26	4.0%
Social Security	4,238	3,230	76.2%	4,504	265	6.3%
Subtotal - Operational Ministry	62,641	48,893	78.1%	67,753	5,111	8.2%
Other Operational Expenses						
Office Supplies	750	766	102.1%	850	100	13.3%
Copier & Printing	3,300	2,455	74.4%	3,300	-	0.0%
Comp hard/software & Web		402		2,375	2,375	
Tele & Wifi	6,650	3,778	73.7%	5,400	(1,250)	-18.8%
Acctg software (other bus exp)		724		1,250	1,250	
Postage	300	289	96.3%	400	100	33.3%
Offering Envelopes/Stewardship	700	704	100.6%	436	(264)	-37.7%
Insurance Protection	7,550	4,411	58.4%	8,100	550	7.3%
Payroll Service	1,600	949	59.3%	1,750	150	9.4%
Synod Convention	800	525	65.6%	550	(250)	-31.3%
Bank & merch fees	675	467		600	(75)	-11.1%
Mileage		279		250	250	
Kitchen & misc	250	81	32.4%	250	-	0.0%
Subtotal - Other Operational Expenses	22,575	15,830	70.1%	26,061	3,486	15.4%
Property & Building Expenses						
Electric	5,000	4,011	80.2%	5,000	-	0.0%
Water / Sewer /Trash	5,200	4,000	76.9%	5,300	100	1.9%
Natural Gas / Fuel Oil	9,650	8,516	88.2%	10,100	450	4.7%
Janitorial Supplies	1,250	723	57.8%	1,150	(100)	-8.0%
Lawn Care (inc Cem & Edge/Mulch)	9,150	6,821	74.5%	9,350	200	2.2%
Tree service	1,200	244	20.3%	1,200	-	0.0%
Heating & Cooling Systems Maint.	1,825	3,419	187.3%	1,875	50	2.7%
Elevator Maintenance & Inspection	1,050	881	83.9%	2,275	1,225	116.7%
Fire/Smoke Alarm & Emerg Gen Maint	875	862	98.5%	900	25	2.9%
Emergency generator main	460	460	100.0%	475	15	3.3%
Snow Removal	2,500	396	15.8%	2,500	-	0.0%
Parking lot maint	250		0.0%	250	-	0.0%
Exterminator Service	870	605	69.5%	900	30	3.4%
Maintenance & Improvements	5,000	3,415	68.3%	5,500	500	10.0%
Subtotal - Property & Building Expenses	44,280	34,353	77.6%	46,775	2,495	5.6%
Safety Committee	1,200	383	31.9%	2,000	800	66.7%
VISION FOR FUTURE COMMITMENT, ETC						
Call Committee	1,000	276		-	(1,000)	-100.0%
Non-budgeted, Council approved	-	(201)		-	-	
ZION'S TOTAL COMMITMENT - TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>250,544</u>	<u>179,637</u>	<u>71.7%</u>	<u>260,717</u>	<u>10,173</u>	<u>4.1%</u>

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH EAST PETERSBURG, PA  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 (10/11/23)**

	<u>2023</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD '23 SEPT</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACT'L %</u> <u>OF BUD'T</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024 BUD'T</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>CHANGE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
CEMETARY FUND - Repairs	800	800	100.0%	800	-	0.0%

SPECIAL PROPERTY MAINTANAINCE/IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND (projects to be undertaken as funds are available according to priority and order determined by Property Committee):

Replace Nave Carpeting	15,000
Replace Parish House Storm Door	1,000
South Circular Window, Bell Tower (2020 Dollars)	1,382
Back Half of Nave Ceiling Repair and Paint	3,520
Front Half of Nave Ceiling Repair and Paint	3,840
Repair and Paint Walls of Nave	8,565
Seal & Reline South Parking Lot	4,875
	<u>38,182</u>

MEMO - Power Pack 2,000

This is a commitment by Congregational Council for \$2,000 each of 5 years 2020-2024, motivated by a bequest & not to require other giving.

## PASTOR'S REPORT 2023

Dear People of Zion East Petersburg,

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* Colossians 3:17

Thank you! Thank you for a beautiful and glorious Installation Service and Celebration. Thank you for your hospitality and welcome toward Ed and me. Thank you for your kindness and patience as I am getting to know you. Thank you for your partnership and willingness to "hear me out." Thank you for your forgiveness and grace when I have made mistakes. Thank you for your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the many ways your faithful actions and obedience to follow the teaching of Jesus with one another and in the community of East Petersburg and the world have blessed and humbled me.

God has been preparing the people of Zion and me to walk together in faith since the beginning of time. On February 15, 2023, the time for us to come together began with a Zoom meeting. The Call Committee and I met to get to know one another. When the time ended, I felt as if this was a "match made in Heaven." Next came the in-person meeting with the Call Committee on February 27, 2023.

We shared a meal, a Bible Study, and spent more time getting to know one another. One thing led to another, and on May 14, I got to meet most of you at breakfast. Then we worshiped together and praised God and sang. It was glorious. I felt as if I had come home. I was so relieved when you all voted unanimously to call me to be your pastor, and without hesitation or doubt I accepted.

The months since have passed by much too quickly as I would like to savor the joy of meeting each of you and getting to know you. On the other hand, I feel as if I can't seem to learn everything I

want to know fast enough so that we can get on with living in God's word together and serving God's people and meeting new people and making disciples and ... and...

I have met with most of the committees and ministry groups of Zion. It has been so wonderful to gain an understanding of all the things that each committee does for the church and for the community. I am continually amazed at the scope of the ministries that Zion supports through member volunteerism, financial support, and prayer support.

I continue my activity as a member of Lower Susquehanna Synod's Transforming Ministry Team. I meet with this committee, led by Pastor Richard Jorgensen, once a month. We serve as a support and think tank for initiatives that promote church health and growth.

I have met the pastors in the Lancaster Conference, and have begun attending the monthly meetings so that I can keep up to date with Conference and Synod activities and programs. I have also joined in the Pericope group that meets weekly to discuss the upcoming Lectionary texts for Sunday.

The local East Petersburg Ministerium is for the most part non-functioning. I am prayerful that the relationship that Zion has had with Trinity UCC and Pastor Chris Rankin can be nurtured and grown as we seek out ways we might be able to minister to the people of East Petersburg together.

I would like to take a moment to thank Pastor Pamela Carnes for her work with Zion as the Intentional Interim Pastor between January 1, 2023 (and before) to May 28, 2023. Having taken the course work to become a certified Intentional Interim Pastor, I recognize the benefit of her work with all of you at Zion. Her work has been a blessing and continues to be a blessing to the people of Zion. And now, as I follow in her footsteps, that work is a blessing to me as well. Here are some of the things that Pastor Carnes did between January and May:

- She led you all through Lent with the return of Wednesday Lenten Suppers and meaningful Lenten worship.
- She provided Bible Study opportunities.
- She visited the sick and shut-in, and blessed the new apartment home of 2 of our beloved members.
- She prayed for you during the call process.
- She continued her work in the community and in the Synod.
- She presided at funerals and she welcomed a new member.

I am excited to see what God has in store for us as we close out 2023, and begin to look forward to 2024. It is my joy and blessing to be your pastor and to know that we are partners in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace.  
Pastor Pam Illick

# **Congregation Council President's Report**

## **Congregation Council Members:**

Lindsey Wagner (President)

John Chesters

Janet Hoover

Barb Ross

Council recording Secretary: John Flood

Charlie Houck (Vice-President)

Mary Chesters

Don Long

Pastor Pam Illick

Lisa Flood

Cameron Mondock

Our council members are the leadership for our church. They serve as liaisons to our committees, attend regular meetings and make important decisions to help our congregation conduct our business. Please thank a council member! Thank you so much for your dedication to our church!

## **2023 YEAR IN REVIEW**

In January we installed 1 new council member. Charlie Houck and I were reelected for 3 more years while Cameron Mondock began his first three-year term.

In April, our Call Committee informed council that they had found a candidate that they recommend we meet with. We met with Pastor Pam Illick and were very impressed. We unanimously voted to call a special meeting in May to introduce her to the congregation. On May 14th, Pastor Pam and her husband, Ed, came for a breakfast social following by Pastor Pam preaching at the service. Following worship, we held a special congregation meeting and voted to call Pastor Pam to be the next pastor of Zion and she thankfully accepted!

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, we had to say good-bye to Pastor Pam Carnes who has served as our interim pastor since September of 2021. We had a lovely social to celebrate her time with us and did an offering to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Pam officially started at Zion! She has jumped right into getting to know our congregation and council. She has attended many, many meetings to get to know our committees, outreach and has had many great suggestions.

In August, council hired Johnathan Flood as the council secretary which has been vacant since last November 2022.

The Installation of Pastor Pam officially was held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Synod installed her at a service and then we had a social following. Thank you to everyone to helped to make this exciting day a success!

As we begin to look at 2024, we pray for God's guidance and give thanks for His many blessings!

Sincerely,

Lindsey Wagner, Church Council President

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - James Riggs**

Members of our very faithful choir, and one of the youth, continue to serve as cantors for worship services.

On November 20, 2022, Christ the King Sunday, guest musician Emily Riggs, soprano, sang two solos during worship.

Zion Hosted *Rizzetta's Tones*, a local Celtic band, on December 11, 2022 for a concert in the sanctuary.

I provided a 15-minute prelude of Christmas music for the 2022 Christmas Eve service, together with flutist Sarah Cahoe and cellist Steve Witter.

For my own professional development, I have embarked on a mentoring relationship with an experienced colleague to develop my composition and orchestration skills. We meet online weekly for two hours. I continue to meet with a voice teacher regularly to refine vocal skills and maintain my focus in that area to benefit my work with the choir.

Christian Seay, tenor, provided a wonderful vocal program on May 13, 2023, at 3PM, in the sanctuary.

In June, I attended a music composition workshop in Austin, TX. This workshop is focused on skills needed by today's working church musicians, and features nationally recognized clinicians in both a lecture and master-class format.

The Senior Choir sang through June 4, 2023. They gathered to sing once over the summer. Guest musicians for the summer included Ron Bellamy, solo handbell ringer and Matt Mangus, tenor. Our own members Steve Witter, Saralee Riggs, Dan Bohler, and Alyssa Wagner also provided music for worship.

Fall choir rehearsal resumed on September 7, 2023, and the choir sang for the September 10 worship service.

Two concerts (Sundays at 3 PM) were planned for the fall/winter season. On October 8, Saralee and Jim Riggs, with Debra Ronning, presented a voice/piano program. On December 3, the Piercing Word troupe presented an Advent/Christmas drama with music.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE –Janet Hoover**

Our committee would like you to get involved in the education of our congregation, please join us the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00, except summer. Current members are Janet Hoover, Marilyn Schappell and Pastor Pam. We received the resignation of Julia and Tom Campbell in September. They were very active, involved members for many years and they will be missed.

This past Advent season the tree in the narthex was decorated with 63 hats, 31 pairs of gloves/mittens, 53 scarves and 88 pairs of socks which were donated to Carter & McRae Elementary School, an additional 8 hat & mitten sets were given to Hempfield School District.

Please consider using the library which has good books of all topics for you to enjoy. Joan Siegrist keeps the library organized.

### **Summer Camping**

This past summer we again offered camperships for all students to attend a week of camp. Alyssa Wagner and Evan Wagner attended camp at Camp Kirchenwald.

### **Sunday School**

This past Sunday School year classes were taught by Cheryl Maurer, Joan Miller, Marilyn Schappell and Janet Hoover. This Sunday School year we have classes for kindergarten to sixth grade, confirmation class and adult class. The adult class is currently studying a book titled "Signs & Wonders". Class is every Sunday morning at 9:00. We have 1 child in the k-6th grade and 2 students in confirmation, which Pastor Pam is teaching.

### **Youth Ministry**

Lindsey Wagner led the Christmas pageant with 3 children and 2 youth. Zion continued to join Trinity UCC Church for Bible School in July.

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE – Ann Ober**

With a talented and committed group of members, the Evangelism Committee remained strong in their efforts throughout 2023. The members of this committee are: Mary Chesters, Lois Jordan, Susan Kametz, Lisa Flood, Bonnie Stebbins, Jack Leshner and Ann Ober. The Pastor also attends all meetings and supports the work of this group.

To a limited extent, the prolonged time required to secure a permanent pastor affected the frequency and size of gatherings in 2022. Intentional Interim Pastor Carnes was a strong supporter of the work of the Committee and with the arrival of Senior Pastor Pam Illick, the committee has a renewed focus to be innovative and ever changing. During 2023, we were able to welcome new member Holly Hackett,

Several key initiatives were sustained throughout the year. Prayer cards that include scripture or words of inspiration were given out with Grab N Go meals. There was also an increased effort to include these folks in Zion, by passing out our newsletter, and flyers on special events and activities. During Advent and Lent, meditation booklets were distributed.

The Circle of Caring Prayer List, and the year-long Grief Program remained active spiritual outreach initiatives championed by Evangelism. The Committee also continued to send cards to members experiencing illness or grief, and to communicate with our sister congregation in Tanzania.

In early spring, the Committee decided to reinstitute the practice of offering refreshments following Sunday services as a way to foster fellowship opportunities for members and guests. The last Sunday of the month was selected and also other committees were invited to share the hosting.

For a period following Zion's Anniversary celebration we continued to feature Faith Stories in our newsletter. These are personal attestations of Faith experienced by individual who volunteer to share their stories. At year end, Pastor Illick, as part of Stewardship, began to gather similar input on what it

means to be a volunteer of Zion, specifically what it means to be part of something larger than ourselves, and to carry out God's word, knowing that our efforts help those who are less fortunate. Along with Stewardship, Evangelism hopes to use the information as a source of inspiration and direction to increase active members and volunteers within Zion.

In the early summer, Zion member, Don Bohler, was instrumental in organizing a bus trip to the annual summer Christian concert in Ocean Grove, NJ. The committee took the need to fill the bus seats as a means to launch the LIFT (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) initiative. It was our hope that area Lutheran churches would include one another in various fellowship opportunities and events. Initial invitations were extended to pastors at St. Peter's, Pembroke, and Salem, with the intention to expand the effort over time.

The Committee continues to work closely with Charlie Houck and Todd Metzger to use social and print media to enhance Zion's presence through promotion and outreach. A wealth of information and resources are now available online and we are now able to push out messages to the congregation and community. This capability has long been a goal of our committee. In conjunction with these advances, the Committee created fresh print materials, namely flyers to announce the arrival of our new pastor, an all-purpose marketing print piece to advance the image and efforts of Zion. We also updated our simple pew cards to encourage visitors and guests as well as to prompt members of immediate access to support for personal needs. Also, the Committee added an updated pictorial directory as a project to pursue within the next year. This was delayed in order to allow us some time to work with Pastor Illick as she leads us in ways to grow our membership.

Always a highlight of the year for the Committee members is our backpack project. Thanks to the efforts of Susan Kametz and Mary Chesters, the Committee was well stocked for the task of packing school supplies into 50 backpacks for young students. As in past years, Thrivent grants were used to cover a majority of the expenses. A message of encouragement from the church is included in each backpack. After these backpacks were blessed by Pastor Illick, they were delivered to the Hempfield School District for distribution to needy students.

The Committee encouraged the continued presence of Zion in the E. P. community. Although we had planned to participate in the fall E.P. parade, that event was canceled due to rain. We did however support distribution of water bottles with customized-designed message labels at fairground festivities. Board members Cameron Mondock and Charlie Houck arranged to offer a corn hole activity for children. It is the Committee's intention that Zion will continue to look for opportunities for meaningful community involvement and support.

The project to offer a free outdoor children's library was completed by summertime. Special thanks and appreciation go out for the efforts of Mary Chesters, Jeff Gable and Charlie Houck. The immediate interest and use of the library is heartening.

An exciting opportunity arose when, in her first sermon at Zion, Pastor Illick used the image and function of the oxen's yoke to demonstrate our relationship with one another and with Christ. The Committee pursued a way to feature the oxen's yoke in our Welcome Center to connote to members, guests and visitors, Zion's, dedication and commitment to an all-consuming relationship with God. A member donated a beautiful, varnished yoke and Jeff and Kim Gable worked with the Pastor to create a display area. The yoke was dedicated during Pastor's installation.

Also in tandem with Pastor Illick's arrival, Evangelism publicized her installation with an ad in the LNP Clergy Appreciation Month October 15<sup>th</sup> addition.

As we look forward to the new year, the Evangelism Committee is challenged to continue our efforts and commitment to new and impactful ways of fulfilling our mission in a drastically changing world.

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE- Charlie Houck**

**Mission statement** Promote faith based and fun church activities outside the Sunday service.

**Committee members:** Arlene Wilhelm, Bev Bachman, Sam Maurer, Cameron Mondock, Charlie Houck

### **Things we have accomplished this year:**

- **Kite Flying** – April 1 thanks to Janet Hoover for supporting most of this.
- **Pastor Carnes farewell luncheon** May 28 combined with the new member lunch.
- **Bus for attending Ocean Grove** July 9th thanks to Dan Bohler for implementing this.
- **Men's Prayer breakfast** is ongoing every 4th Saturday unless a conflict arises.
- **Barnstormer baseball game** September 17 rained out.
- **Designed a label for water bottles** We call this welcome water as per the label. Acquired 400 half liter bottles and applied the labels. The purpose was to hand these out for free at public events like the East Petersburg Day parade and festival.
- **East Petersburg Day parade and games in the park** rained out. We planned on marching in the parade and passing out candy and we labeled water bottles with a custom Zion label that we were able to pass out in the civic park Friday night.
- **Future activities** There are activities that we used to do years ago that we would like to bring back in 2024. Including the Fall Fest Bonfire where we had a potluck along with cooking hot dogs and smores over a bonfire. Congregational Birthday party this usually happens in January. Game night or afternoon which we last did in 2022. We invite you to join us on the Fellowship committee or volunteer to work on one of these activities. If you wish to be involved, please contact the Pastor.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE - Don Long**

The year of 2023 has been a better, more usual, year for the Finance Committee. During 2022, and also 2021, the Committee was very aware of and concerned about Unified/Unrestricted/General Fund Giving being LESS THAN expenses. Committee Chairs & Ministry Leaders were collectively responsive to reducing our 2023 Budget versus that of 2022 by 5%...did "belt tightening" while attempting to NOT reduce programs and ministries significantly. The reduced 2023 Budget, together with Year-to-Date (YTD) spending being under pro-rata Budget and Giving being higher, has created a more positive situation. Unlike 2022 and 2021, YTD Unified/Unrestricted/General Fund Giving is ABOVE Operating Expenses in 2023; the Treasurer's report herein and to be reviewed at the Annual Meeting will review this in more detail. Accordingly, the approach to the 2024 Budget has been different. The need to provide for inflation's impact has been acknowledged and there has not been a focus on Budget reduction. The 2024 Budget, still a work in process at this writing, appears will reflect a "modest" increase that, hopefully, giving levels will support. Everyone is encouraged to review more financial information contained in this same mailing packet (actual September

information and the proposed 2024 Budget), as well as other information presented at the Congregational meeting.

In addition to the Committee's annual efforts in overseeing the Budget's preparation, the Finance Committee has continued to support the many ministries of Zion by overseeing the accounting for the Church's income and overseeing the appropriate disbursement of funds for expenses according to Budget guidelines. More specifically, the Committee typically:

- ensures, in cooperation with the Stewardship Committee and the Financial Secretary (thank you, Pat Crawford!), the proper allocation and recordkeeping of our members' giving;
- reports financial information to Council and the committees each month;
- addresses requests for non-budgeted and Memorial items, when asked;
- monitors the church's investments and insurance coverage;
- offers advice periodically on financial matters and direction; and
- works cooperatively, along with the Treasurer, with periodic audits of the Church's financial records and practices.

In closing, we **greatly** appreciate Barb Breneman's service as our Treasurer – THANK YOU, Barb! Also, special thanks to Shawn Serfass for again serving as Zion's Auditor of 2021. Other current members of the Finance Committee include John Chesters, Lee Ober, Harry Radcliffe & Jack Leshner. Thank you all for your valued time and efforts, notably to Lee for performing desired "independent" reconciliation of our bank accounts monthly!!

## **HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE - John Snoke**

The "Safety" Committee includes seven dedicated Zion members and Pastor Illick. One of our members, Todd Swiontek, is a former EMT/Fireman. We meet every third Saturday of the month and our mission is to secure the health, safety, and security of Zion's congregates and guests. We are always ready to welcome NEW members to our group!

During the past year, among other pressing items, we have been considering/debating a building wide evacuation process in case of some unforeseen emergency such as a fire, a gas leak, or other emergency. This is not easily accomplished in an older building not designed for easy egress, especially for elderly, handicapped, and/or disabled persons. The process has been excruciatingly slow as we progressed from Pastor, to Covid, to Interim Pastor, to Pastor.

During this process we have realized the need for immediate and strong leadership in a crisis and one of our members, Lee Ober, has now assumed the position of Head Usher/Responder Coordinator. Our link to our Parish Council is Mary Chesters and now Pastor Illick whose interest and leadership are invaluable.

If you have any questions, or wish to make a suggestion to our Committee, please talk to one of the following members of the group: Mary Chesters, Cheryl or Sam Maurer, Lee Ober, Bonnie Stebbins, Todd Swiontek, or John Snoke, Committee Chair.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Lee Ober**

*“Is not this the fast that I choose: to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;” Isaiah 58: 6, 7*

The Outreach Committee was formed in 2023 as a Standing Committee within our new church Constitution. It brought together some different standalone programs as well as the Service Ministry program. The members now share their ideas and efforts among each other and hope to involve all our Congregational members. Initially, Pastor Carnes brought ideas and enthusiastic support to our meetings. Our Committee's Goal is to serve our congregation, our local community and others in the world, praying and working to be of service to others in need. Our activities this past year are as follows:

- Grab & Go - A Community Meals project that provides free lunches on drive-by basis on Mondays. Many in our Congregation volunteer as meal providers or meal managers. Over 2500 meals are distributed each year to those in need.
- Clothing Bank - Free clothing, sorted and displayed for those in need. We receive all types of clothing in clean and decent condition.
- 50 year member recognition - In November of 2022, Doris Kiehl and her husband George were honored.
- Food Bank Harvest Home - Special effort to inform our members of food collection (non-perishable) delivered to Hempfield Area Food Pantry.
- Accepted and displayed a plaque from Tanzania donated by Mrs. Joan Kessler, honoring her husband's wish. It signifies our church's connection to Tanzania as 'Companions In Christ' (the plaque in Swahili "KARABU", meaning Welcome).
- Quilts - Our Committee arranged for 6 beautiful quilts, made by our Zion Quilters, to be donated to a local charity, OFF THE STREETS, helping get our homeless off the streets.
- Communicated with special bulletin or newsletter articles the importance of supporting our Lower Susquehanna Synod, World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Disaster Relief (Ukraine and Maui Aid), Lancaster Co Council of Churches,
- Home On Ferdinand - projects to raise money or purchase needed items to support this transitional home in Manheim for up to 20 single women and mothers with young children. We supplied a few pies to a silent auction event supported by the whole community that raised more than \$10,000. Our congregation members purchased large numbers of Children's Care items in June to provide an inventory of these necessary items for when needed.
- We supported a special plea presented by Pastor Carnes for raising money needed by Habitat for Humanity to fund new home building projects in Columbia and Lebanon for families wanting to own their own homes.
- Spring Cleaning for TLC of Lancaster - We asked our church members to donate used or new blankets, other bed linens, personal care items, and cleaning supplies for this Transitional Housing Apartment building to provide suitable shelter for those who need to begin again at providing for themselves. Our collection was a great success.

Finally, please know our devoted committee members, Vickie Swiontek, Lois Jordan, Carole and Alvie Fetzer, Dan Bohler, Bernie Redcay, Lee Ober. As always we invite other church members to sit in or join our OutReach Committee.

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Rick Miller**

Meeting Date/Time: Typically, the first Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Members: Rick Miller (Chairman), Sam Maurer IV, Todd Sillaman, John Chesters (Congregational Council Representative) and Lee Ober. Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee: Kim and Jeff Gable. Sextons: Doug & Linda Stoner. Supply Sexton: Janet Hoover.

2023 Completed Projects – through 10.31.23

- Prepared and sent a letter to our neighbor, Amanda Dodson, regarding the temporary parking of their black Mustang in our south parking lot.
- Repaired the brass bookstand that is located on the altar.
- Cleaned and reorganized the Boiler Room and Electrical Room (Property Committee closet) that are located in the basement area.
- Cleaned and reorganized the Property Committee Shed.
- Replaced the motion sensor that controls the exterior lights on the south/west corner of the Parish House Barn.
- Installed a clear lock box over the A/C wall control located in the Narthex.
- Coordinated with Rubio's to perform our annual tree and bush trimming – January 2023.
- Contracted with an Indoor City contractor to have the threshold replaced (located under the interior double doors leading into the Nave).
- Installed three new kick-down door stops for the three interior doors leading into the Nave.
- Coordinated the annual maintenance of our emergency generator.
- Replaced various lightbulbs, including the exterior unit located in the ceiling of the east-end portico.
- Upgraded our carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.
- Contracted with KE Weaver to replace a bearing in the hot water circulating pump that provides heat and hot water to the kitchen area.
- Coordinated the annual insurance carrier mandated inspection of our 3 heating boilers.
- Coordinated with Janet Hoover to become our new Supply Sexton.
- Researched and contracted for a new plumbing service - ASAP Plumbing.
- Contracted with ASAP Plumbing to have the downstairs toilet in the Parish House repaired.
- Prepped and painted the exterior wrought-iron railings and light poles located adjacent to the Broad Street double door entrance.
- Cleaned the exterior and vacuumed the back grill of our industrial-sized refrigerator.
- Coordinated with KE Weaver to conduct the annual preventative maintenance of our three heating boilers.
- Contracted with ASAP Plumbing to repair the drinking fountain located in the narthex.
- Researched and coordinated agreements with Green Mountain Energy as our alternative energy provider for our main facility and the Parish House.
- Replaced batteries throughout our main facility and the Parish House – exterior light controls, thermostats, etc.
- Contracted with M & E Roofing to replace the roof of the Property Committee Shed.
- Drafted and sent letters to our neighbors, (a) Joshua D. Vaughn (with a request to stop using our upper parking lot as a staging area for his annual July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks launch) and (b) Eugene & Mary Ellen Buckwalter (with a request that they tell their tenants that they may not park their vehicles in our south parking lot).
- Coordinated with EH Gochnauer for the annual preventative maintenance of our air conditioning units.

- Power-washed the exterior of the Property Committee Shed and various other exterior structures.
- Coordinated with Rubio's for annual edging and mulching of church grounds – June 2023.
- Repaired a chip in the communion railing.
- Coordinated with Yarnell Security for the annual inspection of our fire/smoke and elevator monitoring systems.
- Contracted with ASAP Plumbing to replace the Parish House basement main water supply shut-off valve.
- Installed "Stop, No Thru Traffic, Private Drive" signs at the north and south entrances to our north/south driveway.
- Contracted with Mark Goodman Electric to connect our emergency generator to the Yarnell Security System (which monitors our fire/smoke and elevator alarms).
- Contracted with Goodman Electric to replace the exhaust fan motors in our four original restrooms – located on the first and second floors of the education wing.
- Contracted with Robert Miller Concrete to replace the required sections of the sidewalk/curb along Lemon Street.
- Coordinated the insurance settlements resulting from the automobile accident that occurred at the corner of our north/south drive and Lime Alley.
- Contracted with Bartlett Tree Service to treat two of our trees.
- Contracted with KE Weaver to repair the leaking seal in the water circulator pump of the LAARS boiler.
- Coordinated removal of the white vehicle that was parked illegally in our south parking lot.
- Arranged to have a radio frequency water meter installed in the Parish House.
- Coordinated with Graham Fyre Fyters for the annual inspection of our fire extinguishers – including the addition of a new fire extinguisher for under the pulpit.
- The refurbishing and painting of the two exterior basement doors.
- Coordinated the annual performance evaluation of our Sexton.
- Coordinated the identification and removal of the old TVs that were located throughout the main facility.

On behalf of the Property Committee, I would like to recognize: Kim and Jeff Gable for their dedication and hard work as they continue to provide volunteer services to keep the exterior landscaping of our facility looking great. Doug & Linda Stoner and Janet Hoover for their service and conscientiousness as they perform their duties as Sextons and Supply Sexton. Our secretaries, Cindy Miley and Sherry Barnhill, for their assistance and always available to support the Property Committee. The entire committee for attending and participating in our monthly meetings, volunteering for work parties, assisting with projects and coordinating the services of our vendors.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Charlie Houck**

**Mission statement** Promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living, by communicating the Christian use of time, talent, and treasure, to support the congregation's local, church wide and worldwide ministries and to lead all members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work."

**Members:** Lois Jordan, Jack Fitz, Charlie Houck, Lee Ober, Shawn Serfass, Steve Witter

### **Accomplishments:**

- We supported online giving on our website and from a mobile app.

- Conducted a special giving campaign to raise at least \$10,000 for sidewalk maintenance.
- Supported the Finance committee in creating next year's budget.
- Participated in analysis of the cost of giving envelopes.

#### **Initiatives:**

- As the Stewardship Committee, it is our charter to encourage all to take on responsibility not only for an efficiently run ministry but to be better stewards in this world and leave it better than we found it through good service.
- We provide financial and spiritual updates in the monthly newsletters and with the individual quarterly financial statements that are prepared by the Financial Secretary to ensure our congregation is informed of our giving as the year progresses.
- We track the funds that are dedicated to church operating expenses and report positive or negative trends as compared to a weekly prorated budget goal to Council and the Congregation by reports and bulletin board listings.
- We strive to encourage and inspire members to volunteer their time and talent for various committee and ministry positions.

#### **Status on volunteering:**

Attendance has been dwindling down for the last few years even before the pandemic. This year we seem to have bottomed out and have grown from an average of about 45-50 to 60-70 every Sunday. Unfortunately, with that increase we still find that few people are volunteering to support our Sunday ministry. The result is a select few people continue to volunteer to support our Sunday worship requirements so we would like to have more volunteers. We have started the informational campaign "Acts of Kindness" what does it mean to you to volunteer at Zion. We ask for your assistance to get involved in a committee, council, or any of our charitable organizations. If you would like to become more involved, please contact the Pastor.

#### **Status on giving:**

We strive to inspire the congregation to give as they are able and to be consistent in their giving. We thank you for your generous giving this year. Our giving so far this year exceeds our expenses and our giving goal. We refer you to the financial reports supplied by the Finance committee for detail. Attendance during the summer is usually low and so is the giving but we did not experience that this year. We want to express our thanks to our members who count the offering that is collected each week and make the bank deposit. In 2024 there will no longer be communion envelopes so there will be just one envelope for each service. This saved a few hundred dollars of our budget in 2024. We still encourage you to set up a monthly electronic giving. If you want to do your offering electronically but need some assistance, please contact Charlie Houck.

#### **Future Plans:**

We are always looking for people to count the Sunday offering and make the bank deposit. Counting the offering does not require any financial training but does require some time following the service on Sundays. If you are unable to commit to this on a regular basis you can volunteer to be a substitute. We are looking to fill open committee positions and Sunday support positions including but not limited to usher, altar setup support, lectors and assisting minister. If you are willing to serve in any of these capacities, please step forward and make your desire known. We are planning a Stewardship event to be held in 2024 so stay tuned for details.

## **WORSHIP/MUSIC COMMITTEE- Lisa Flood/Barb Ross**

### **MEMBERS**

Dan Bohler, Mary Chesters, Kim Gable, Deb Miller, Jim Riggs (Director of Music), Steve Witter, Lisa Flood & Barb Ross (Co-Chairs)

### **COORDINATORS**

Mary Chesters and Deb Miller (Altar Care & Acolytes), Kim Gable (Altar Flowers), Kim Gable & Alvie Fetzer (Decorating), Lisa Flood (Council Representative), Barb Ross (Lectors), Jim Riggs (Music, Choir, Cantors, Concert Series)

This committee oversees and encourages congregational involvement in all aspects of Zion's worship. Working closely with the Pastor and Director of Music, we strive to create meaningful worship experiences, in keeping with our Lectionary, for all who share with us in worship. The committee oversees music ministry, acolytes, lectors, nursery attendants, altar care, ushers, seasonal sanctuary decorations, the inventory of candles, communion and baptism supplies. The Worship and Music Committee has specific responsibility for music, altar care (including communion and set-up and clean-up), special music guests, equipment (piano & organ and other Zion owned instruments).

This year the Lenten Season began on February 17 with the Ash Wednesday service and the Imposition of Ashes. Sarah Cahoe was our guest flutist and accompanied the choir anthem. The choir sang at all of the midweek services including those during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday was a service of Holy Communion concluding with Dan Bohler singing Psalm 22 during the Stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday Steve Witter played "Go to Dark Gethsemane" on cello. Palm Sunday was celebrated with a palm procession and the reading of the Passion by members of the congregation. Easter Sunday was a joyous service filled with hymns and anthems of praise and a choral prelude by the choir. The youth participated in a Gospel procession.

Under the leadership of Music Director, Jim Riggs, in March of 2023 we held our first "Music at Zion" concert of the season, "A Sacred Meditation of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs". Featured were Chrystian Seay, tenor, and Jordan Markham on piano. The music was expertly performed and appreciated by the audience. The Worship and Music committee provided a reception afterward.

On May 28, the church was decorated with geraniums for Pentecost. The flowers were then planted on the church grounds for summer color. Red carnations were also provided for the new members who were honored at the luncheon that day, as well as a red floral arrangement to honor Pastor Carnes on her last day with our congregation.

On June 15 Ron Bellamy, always a favorite guest, returned with his handbells to provide some beautiful music during our worship service. On June 25 tenor Matthew Mangus joined us to perform a solo during our worship service. Summer music soloists also included Saralee Riggs, Dan Bohler, Alyssa Wagner, and Steve Witter on cello. On July 23, the choir also joined together for an impromptu summer anthem.

The choir membership continues to grow. Since the beginning of the year six new singers have become choir members. They include Steve Witter, MaryAnn Hess, Betty Sementelli (returning member) Jack Leshner, Sarah and Daina Stanley. Welcome aboard!

October was a busy month beginning with a Fall concert on October 8 featuring Jim and Saralee Riggs as the vocalists, and Debra Ronning as the accompanying pianist. We had good attendance, and the delightfully beautiful music was enjoyed and appreciated by all in attendance!

On October 22, a Service of Healing was held including recognition of Zion's members who are EMTs, nurses, doctors, and all in health and wellness services. This included both those who are active and those retired at this time.

On October 29 we celebrated Reformation Sunday with a sea of red. Festive red banners, flowers and decorations filled the sanctuary as well as choir and members of the congregation attired in red. Deacon April Trout, the Lower Susquehanna Synod's liaison to the Khonde Diocese in Tanzania, was present to speak to us about the exciting things happening at our companion congregation, Forest Lutheran Church,. A potluck luncheon and fellowship followed the service.

On November 12 we will give special recognition to current members of our congregation who are Veterans of past military service.

On November 13, our committee will prepare the meal for Grab and Go lunches that day.

This year there will be two worship services on Sunday, December 24. The morning service at 10:30 A.M. will include a pageant and singing of carols. The evening service at 7 P.M. will be a candlelight service including Holy Communion.

Our committee is always ready to welcome new members! We continue to seek people to fill the roles of worship assistants, ushers, lectors and acolytes. We will instruct and guide those who wish to participate. We are grateful for the Coordinators and all the individuals whose hard work keep things running smoothly at Zion. We especially appreciate Jim Riggs and his dedication to supporting meaningful worship through our music, and his efforts to expand our music ministry!

Although she has only been with us for a short time, we are so grateful for Pastor Pam! Her enthusiasm and fresh new ideas have been inspiring us all. We can't wait to see where God will lead Pastor Pam and our congregation in the coming months.

## **TASK FORCE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE- John Chesters**

The Memorial Committee is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. They meet as needed to consider requests and conduct business. It is their duty to see that the Memorial Book is kept up to date and to record the names of all who make gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of individuals who have died.

The committee follows the established guidelines and procedures for memorial gifts and for the use of memorial funds. Items purchased from Memorial Funds are dedicated and listed in the Memorial Book. For 2023, funds were approved for the replacement and purchase of a new commercial coffee brewer.

The committee members are as follows: Kim Gable, Barbara Breneman, Alvie Fetzer, John Krause and John Chesters

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - Charlie Houck**

**Mission Statement:** Provide technical support to the congregation and support staff to meet technology needs for the purpose of maintaining and improving our ministry.

**Members:** Charlie Houck, Randy Schappell

### **Accomplishments:**

- Configured an online presence for our Sunday Service using YouTube while still preserving the Zoom session.
- Performed email maintenance for configuring new users using zionep.org and deleting no longer used email IDs.
- Supported Zion's Angels in advertising their fundraisers.
- Provided high quality informative email blasts listing events including but not limited to concerts.
- Created weekly videos for display on Facebook, our website, and in the church narthex that list current events and announcements.
- Configured laptop computer email and supportive business software for Pastor Illick
- Acquired and configured a new laptop for Zoom session in the Narthex.

### **Initiatives:**

- Track computing and communications use and manage costs in a manner that will meet our needs.
- Provide technical support when problems arise with any technology system acquired or operated by the church.
- Create an effective online presence so when anyone does a web search for "Lutheran Church in Lancaster PA" Zion is close to if not at the top of the search list.
- Support the Pastor in all their technical needs.
- Improve and update [www.zionep.org](http://www.zionep.org) so perspective new members can find information about Zion and existing members can use it as a resource of information.
- Help all church members to advertise functions on our website and on Facebook.
- Weekly edits to Facebook

### **Future plans:**

- Improve the Wi-Fi coverage to include all 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms.
- Relocate the Wi-Fi router used during church services to the rear wall just above and next to the rear doors.
- Create specifications for CCTV coverage of all access points to the building for possible future installation.
- Create a specification for a church wide public address system for possible future installation.
- Create specification to improve Parish house access in answering the door for possible future installation.

**Online worship:**

Now that we are offering unrestricted in-person worship our weekly number of viewers of the livestream at the time of the service has lowered to an average of 5-6. There are an average of 25 to 30 views of a service in the week following the service. You can access the weekly service livestreamed to YouTube from the website and our YouTube channel.

**Zion Web site:**

Maintaining the website is an ongoing task that requires weekly maintenance as we continue to livestream the Sunday services. We invite members to request assistance in advertising any church function. If we are asked to help with advertising, we request 60 days' notice of the event and need photos and information about the event.

**Facebook**

We maintain our Facebook page with regular updates and events. The YouTube based weekly service can be accessed from the Facebook button labeled Watch Video.

**Email blasts**

In addition to the regular weekly bulletin email the Secretaries send we create email blasts to alert subscribers to functions or announcements.

## **ORGANIZATIONS & OTHER REPORTS**

### **SKEINS & SCONES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY- Kathy Fitz**

Approximately twelve creative ladies met each month during the year to knit or crochet Prayer Shawls, Scarves, Hats, Mittens and Lap Robes for individuals needing to feel the warmth of God's love surrounding them. We have distributed close to 3,000 items during the 16 years of our existence. We have welcomed members from within our own congregation and from other churches as well and we have become a family of caring friends. Additionally, our group has spawned a few other Prayer Shawl groups within the area as an added blessing.

Our items have been gifted to many individuals through organizations such as UPMC Hospital, Phil Haven, Lancaster General Hospital and Welsh Mountain Home in New Holland. The hats and scarves that grace our Xmas tree in the Narthex each year go to children in local schools who need them to keep warm during the cold months.

Our Circle Of Prayer time is the centerpiece of each meeting as we bless every new item and pray for each person who has received an item from our group.

We are grateful to the congregation for their support of this special ministry and invite everyone to join us on the third Wednesday of each month. God bless each one of you!

## **ZEST (Zion Embraces Singles Today) - Bev Bachman**

ZEST's purpose is to support those who have lost their spouse or any single person with care, compassion, and companionship. We meet the last Wednesday of the month usually for breakfast. We also supplied Grab and Go lunches in June and September. Our hope is for all singles to join us.

## **ZION'S ANGELS/RELAY FOR LIFE - Marcia Eisenhower**

Zion's Angels continues to be active fundraising for the American Cancer Society with the support of family, friends, and members of Zion. With our efforts and your generosity, we were able to raise \$11,580.53 for the American Cancer Society. These donations are used for research on life saving treatments, detection, education, and support for both the patient and family through transportation, wigs, emotional support, and other resources.

Our fundraisers consisted of chicken and pork barbecues, fall mum sale, Zook's meat pies and apple dumplings sale, S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons, chocolate covered pretzel sale, JB Dawson, Son's Ice Cream, Rachel's Creperie, Smelly Jellie sale, cake raffle, Egg My House, Dime collections, working at Hershey, Luminaria, and Share our Success (Park City Diner & Knight & Day Diner).

The team also actively participates in the life of Zion through providing the Grab N Go meal a few times a year.

We thank you for your continued support and would love to welcome new members to our team.

## **ZION'S QUILTERS- Emilie Krause**

Zion's Quilters continue to meet twice a month on Mondays from 1-3 P.M. from September through May.

This past year, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) reported 220,317 quilts were delivered to 17 countries. Of this amount, 6,072 went to Ukraine.

During this quilting session, at least 288 hours have been invested by 8 ladies in assembling 45 quilts which were delivered to New Windsor, Md. for distribution. Patterned, cotton material is always needed and can be left in the Quilting Room on the second floor opposite the elevator.

## In Memoriam

God of salvation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. Surround them with the light of your presence. Give comfort to those who grieve, that in the promise of baptism we may all have eternal life with you and all the saints, and that because of your resurrection one day we will all be united with Christ in a resurrection like his. Amen

We give thanks for and remember these members of our Zion family who entered into the church eternal during 2023:

*Pearl Bard March 11, 1927 - March 14, 2023*

*Phillip Hartenstine August 22, 1952- March 18, 2023*

*Geraldine Hoffer October 16, 1932 - March 30, 2023*

*Helen Knouff February 23, 1933 – May 4, 2023*

*Terry Wilhelm March 30, 1941 - June 9, 2023*

*Shirley Allison September 29, 1933 - June 11, 2023*

*Lee Manifold March 28, 1939 - August 19, 2023*

*Edward Irwin May 22, 1945 – August 26, 2023*

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.