

DECEMBER 2017

Zion Lutheran Church Zion News & Notes

Zion News & Notes is published each month by the church office. It includes news of upcoming events, thank you notes, a calendar, archives, photos and many other items of interest. Our newsletters are also available on our website: www.zionluth.com.

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PLEASE NOTE:

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25 & Monday, January 1.

Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words From Pastor David



We have had quite an anniversary celebration. We began in August with the music festival and culminated with a memorable anniversary banquet on November 11 and a special worship service on the 12th, and included a rededication of Zion's WWII Honor Roll. I want to thank all those who helped and/or participated because without your involvement these events would not have been as successful and meaningful as they were. I especial-

ly want to thank Cheryl Edmiston, Fran Holzberger, Claudia King, Kim Marscher, and Jack Henke. They all devoted a great amount of time and effort to ensure that the banquet and worship service would be unforgettable and fitting. I also want to thank Jack for his tremendous gift to Zion, namely, the history of Zion he wrote, published, and gave to us to distribute freely. This is a great gift that we will enjoy and benefit from for decades to come.

Now that we have come to realize and appreciate the deep, broad, and solid foundation upon which present day Zion exists, for as Rev. Nolte once said, "We stand on the shoulders of our predecessors and reap the blessings of their toil," it's time for us to look toward the future. There is unquestionably a need within the Utica/Rome area for a place like Zion, a place that has been formed and continues to be transformed by God's love, compassion, and grace, and that strives to extend this to others, a place that welcomes all, a place where God's Work is being done by Our Hands, a place where you don't have to check your brain at the door, and a place that seeks to be part the solution to our society's ills, rather than part of the problem. Along these lines, please see the letter from Steve Oelschlager in this newsletter, and remember that on December 3 we submit our *Estimate of Giving* cards, a means by which we indicate our financial support for Zion's mission and ministries.

A new liturgical year is beginning. As with the beginning of the calendar year, may it be a time of hope, anticipation, and optimism. Many opportunities lie before us to positively affect people's lives, to make the world we live in a better place. The Incarnation of God (the God of our Old Testament) in Jesus reminds us that God cares about this world and all its inhabitants, that God cares about the physical and the material, not just the spiritual. As busy as we may get during this holiday season, I encourage us all to find some time to meditate and/or reflect on the meaning of the Incarnation for us, and what we are called to do in response; how we might use the blessings we have received from our predecessors at Zion, and from God, for the benefit of the world God created, pronounced good, and continues to love so much. Amen.

Thank you again for granting me the privilege of being your pastor, and may you have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor David

<u>IUST A REMINDER</u> ... On December 3 we will be observing Commitment Sunday where we will be receiving people's *Estimate of Giving* cards for 2018 during the worship service. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM DEBBIE, PR. DAVID & THE COUNCIL: If you are responsible for a report for Zion's 2017 Annual Report, please submit to the office **by December 31**. Please e-mail your reports to Debbie at **office@zionluth.com**. Any questions, please call her at 315-732-4110. *Thank you!*





Blue Christmas/ Longest Night

Worship Service

Thurs., December 21st at 6:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church

More details to come!

Announcements & Upcoming Events

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITEE - will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Please make every effort to attend. If unable to attend, let a committee member know if you have any questions or ideas: Kim & Jim Marscher, Bob & Bonnie Loomis, Wendy Stevens, Laura Hilt, Gloria Cifonelli, Mary Senn, John Aceto, Matt Aceto, Jim Schieble, Diana Inserra, Jeanne Gymburch and Pastor David.

<u>CALLING ALL "YOUNG FAMILIES" DADS!</u> The Young Families group will meet at 6 PM on Thursday, December 7 for pizza, wings, a story, and crafts. Zion is getting ready for the holidays that same evening. Dads in the group - would you help put the big tree up in the sanctuary while you're at Zion on December 7? It won't take long, and one of our members who knows how to set it up will be there. Please bring work gloves if you're able to help. Thank you!

<u>DECK THE HALLS OF ZION</u>! Please help us put up the tree on **Thursday**, **December 7** @ **7:00 PM**, and decorate the tree and church on **Friday**, **December 8** @ **6:00 - 8:00 PM**. Thank you!

SPECIAL "LESSONS & CAROLS" SERVICE ON DECEMBER 31st at 10 AM Our Lessons & Carols service will have special guests - the Paris Hill Brass Quintet, who performed at Zion last December and for the August Music Festival. They will play during the service and then a short concert of Christmas selections right after the service. You can get some coffee and bring it into the sanctuary to listen. We thank the Paris Hill Brass for helping us celebrate the 12 days of Christmas in 2017!

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 12:00 PM - Zion's Women's Group will have lunch and a program about wellness by Kelli Corasanti. Men are welcome, too! ** Snow date will be the following Sunday, February 25, 2018. **



ZION'S MEN'S GROUP will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 2 at Breakfast at Tiffany's. All men are welcome.

<u>JUST A REMINDER</u> ... On <u>December 3</u> we will be observing <u>Commitment Sunday</u> where we will be receiving people's *Estimate of Giving* cards for 2018 during the worship service. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY: Come join us for our Bible study called, "Introduction to the Bible" on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 - 11:30 AM & Wednesday evenings at 6:30 - 8:00 PM. This study is envisioned as a year-long project. Questions, please contact Pr. David (pastor@zionluth.com or 315-732-4110).

Vignettes From Zion's History: Notes from Our 175th

We were blessed during this festive weekend with the presence of Julia Krauss, a descendant of Pastor Andrew Wetzel. Julia, who works as an actress in Toronto, was born in Weilimdorf, Germany, Pastor Andrew's birthplace. Many of you met Julia; I wish that every member of our congregation could have experienced her enthusiasm and appreciation for Zion's perpetuation of the Wetzel legacy.

At Sunday's service, Julia read this letter from Pastor Harmut Hacker, senior minister at St. Oswald's Lutheran Church (*Oswaldkirche*) in Weilimdorf:

Dear Brethren of the Zion's Church:

We rejoice with you as you celebrate your 175th anniversary and the memories that accompany it.

We, too, treasure the memories of Pastor Andreas Wetzel, who was born and raised here. He grew up on one of the old farmsteads of Weilimdorf, during a time when our village was still mostly agricultural.

agricultural.

Being raised in this environment benefited Pastor Wetzel greatly when he traveled to rural towns in Upstate New York to

Helmut Maier sent Zion this photo of St. Oswald's Church in

confirmed here around 1821.

Weilimdorf. Andrew Wetzel was

spread the good news of the Gospel and establish new church communities.

Weilimdorf, since that time, has been absorbed by the city of Stuttgart, the ever-spreading capital of our state. In this envi-

ronment, the memories of our very own past are an important treasure that we cherish.

The fact that a son of Weilimdorf helped Christian evangelism spread in the Upstate New York, and brought the Christmas

The fact that a son of Weilimdorf helped Christian evangelism spread in the Upstate New York, and brought the Christmas tree custom there as well, fills us with a feeling of being an important part of your world.

We wish you and your congregation God's blessings.

Julia contacted our church four years ago. Office administrator Joyce Maher gave her my email address and Zion's "across the ocean" connection flourished from that moment on. Julia was working on behalf of her grandfather, Helmut Maier, who was researching Wetzel's life. I supplied her with newspaper and newsletter articles, and I also gave the Maier/Krauss family a copy of Pastor Nolte's bilingual history of Zion, published in 1922.

The family extends their appreciation and thanks to Zion for our restoration of the Wetzel family plot in Forest Hill Cemetery, and to the members who participated in a re-dedication service there last September. Julia and I visited Forest Hill prior to Sunday's service. A low November sun perfectly illuminated Andrew and Elizabeth's memorials, legible now because of our historic diligence. Julia placed a brilliant red poinsettia by the pastor's headstone, a fitting tribute to an amazing man.

The Weilimdorf historical society has contacted our church and one of its officers, Edeltraud John, sent us a Christmas present - a book of tantalizing German cookie recipes, accompanied by decoratively-wrapped holiday cutters. Helmut Maier and Edeltraud have also mailed Zion two books about Weilimdorf, which will soon be on display. How blessed we are to enjoy these connections with Andrew Wetzel's hometown!

Longtime Zion members Duane and Helene Cushman Sand participated in our 175th anniversary service. That day, in the spirit of the occasion, the Sands gave me a German children's book that Helene had retrieved from her mother's collection. Zion's Sunday school presented the volume, entitled *Das Gluckskind* ("The Lucky Child"), to Helene's aunt, Katie Dengler, on Christmas Day 1894. Written in old German script, the book contains beautiful illustrations. Pastor John Carl Nestel, who guided our church in 1894, promoted the congregation's educational efforts through gifts like this. In 1896, Nestel saw to it that Sunday school pupils received copies of *The New Testament in 80 Pictures*, which explained that portion of the Bible in English and German. The Sands' generous gift will be placed in Zion's archives and displayed at a later date.

The color guard of the New Hartford American Legion Post #1376 deserves our deepest gratitude for their dignified, patriotic participation in the re-dedication of Zion's World War II Honor Roll at the 175th anniversary service. A spin-off from this ceremony must be mentioned. In the narthex, Legion Commander Rand Kennedy held the Honor Roll while the guard awaited the service. Bonnie Mursch Walker, the daughter of World War II veteran Fred "Bud" Mursch, noticed Rand and led her grandson by the hand to see this framed list of Zion's veterans. As Bonnie touched her father's name, she told the little boy, "This was your great grandfather, who fought for our country and served this church for a long, long time."

It was a beautiful, priceless moment. When we preserve history, we preserve goodness and truth, and we enrich future generations.

The Vignettes columns are researched and written by Jack Henke.

Next month: Sophie's Gift. Please note - This column was scheduled for our December newsletter, but the need to comment about the 175th took precedence.



Announcements & Upcoming Events

<u>FYI</u>: The "Worship Team" sign-up sheets are posted on a beam in the Narthex for the time being. They will soon be moved back to a new bulletin board for people to sign up for Greeter, Ushers, Communion Assts. & Worship Assts. *Thanks for your patience!*



LCM/ STEP Center December News:

It has been a wonderful semester of renewal and nurture and preparing for the future.

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR GOSPEL MISSON ON CAMPUS!

- Our STEP Center service learning outreach programs for Refugees has been GIFTED by volunteer teachers and childcare providers, food, clothes, Scholastic books, transportation and support for our college student volunteers from St. Stephens, Good Shepherd, Atonement, Luther Memorial & St. Peters, churches.
- A significant GIFT to move us into the future is: The Central New York Refugee Ministry Committee formed this year*
- LCM STEP is GIFTED to be welcomed as contributors to the exciting growth of Appleseed Ministry's Community Dinner at Atonement Lutheran.
- The GIFT of the Rev. Brian Konkol, ELCA, as the new Dean of Hendricks Chapel.
- THE GIFT OF YOUR PRESENCE and/or PRAYERS in the Mission of LCM!
- Your donations are GIFTS that sustain our ministry of WORD and SACRAMENT with students who are searching for God as they are choosing their path in life.

* We are looking for representatives from each congregation in Central Crossroads conference. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2:30 pm to 4 pm.



At Left: Children and SU student volunteers at the Learning to Read, Families Together, STEP Center Program

At Right: Some Lutheran supporters at Dean Konkol's installation reception.



Zion's Food Ministry

Please keep Zion's Food Ministry in mind this upcoming holiday season. Zion provides food baskets each Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas for roughly 10 needy families in the area. Every monetary donation we receive toward this effort makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Thank you to ALL who helped make Zion's 175th Banquet a success — all who helped plan and prepare for the day and shared memories. Zion is certainly blessed — past, present and for the future.

Claudia King



Announcements



Angel Tree & Mitten Tree

ANGEL TREE: The Angel tree has been put up in the Narthex. You are invited to choose an angel from the tree to help make someone's Christmas brighter. The angels will be labeled with a wish from a child or adult involved in one of the following local programs: Thea Bowman House (children's program), and the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. Return the gifts unwrapped with the Angel tag taped to it and place it under the Angel tree in the Narthex. The last day to return all donations is Sunday, December 17. See Deb Murdock with any questions.

MITTEN TREE: The Mitten tree has been put up in the Narthex. Please bring in your handmade or purchased mittens/gloves/hats/scarves to place on the tree. The organizations benefiting from the mitten tree are Thea Bowman House and Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. **The last day to add your items to the mitten tree is Sunday, December 17.** See Deb Murdock with any questions.

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule:

<u>Sunday, December 3</u>: (1 Advent, Stewardship Sunday) 10:00 AM Traditional Service & 6:00 PM Contemporary Service

<u>Sunday, December 10</u>: (2 Advent) 10:00 AM "Hanging of the Greens" Service, 6:00 PM Contemporary Service

<u>Sunday, December 17</u>: (3 Advent) 10:00 AM Traditional Service with *SCS Christmas Pageant* & 6:00 PM Contemporary Service

Thursday, December 21: 6:00 PM Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 24: (4 Advent) 10:00 AM Traditional Service

<u>Sunday, December 24:</u> (Christmas Eve) 6:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service & Pageant, 10:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

<u>Sunday, December 31:</u> (1 Christmas) *Lessons & Carols* Service at 10:00 AM with special guests, the Paris Hill Brass Quintet.

2017-2018 ZION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Students: Ages 3 years – Grade 6 Sundays @ 11:15 – 12:00



DECEMBER

3 10 17 24	Ornaments Christmas Pageant practice Christmas Pageant/celebration No class (Christmas Break)	 Dig In – Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Nigh Christian Crafts Dig In – Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Nigh Christian Crafts 	
31	No class (Christmas Break)	28 Christian Crafts	

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JANUARY

From the Pen of Mae Parker



Even after all this time Wise men still seek the savior In their lives and in their faith

Wise men come from every country
Study all the scriptures true
To find the true story
Of the star that's still in view

Men still celebrate
The coming of the Lord
Down on their knees
Their prayers are poured

So lift up your voices Sing praises this holy day The star still shines It will never go away

OPPORTUDE OF THE RUSSIA CONNECTION

Think you've heard just about enough about Russia lately? Well, here's some good news:

After many years of repression and abandonment during the communist era, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia is now publicly re-engaging in its ministry and mission activities. The ELCA has been invited to support the church in Siberia in developing new learning opportunities for pastors and lay leaders, including online curriculum, workshops and scholarships to further develop leaders of this newly public church. Who would think that our mission dollars here in New York State are reaching to Siberia? That is just one example of the global nature of Christ's Church, and thanks be to God for the ELCA being active in spreading the good news!

Your mission support helps the church in Siberia! *Thank you!*

DECEMBER 2017

We are church together for the sake of the world. *God's Work. Our Hands.*

From Youth Advisors, past and present:

* Thank you, "kids" involved in Youth

* Group for enriching our lives. Thank you,

* parents of "kids" in Youth Group for entrusting your

* children to us.

* Bob & Bonnie Loomis

Thanks to everyone who brought treats for "Advent Preparation Sunday" on November 19, and to all who signed up to help with readings and decorations in December. There are still readings available. The sign-up sheets are on an easel in the narthex. Zion needs you!

Special thanks again to Helga Morrison for yet another beautiful floral arrangement she created for our altar to be used on special memorial days and military observances. They are lovely and we also thank you for donating them to our needs.

Your Zion family



Dear Members,

On behalf of St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church, I wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation, your recent donation of 127 food items to our food pantry. Your contribution will help us to provide food to the many patrons we serve each month.

We currently are in the process of collecting holiday food items (stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce and gravy) in hopes of providing all the "holiday fixings" as an extra bonus to the regular monthly food bags we provide. We will be collecting these types of food items through mid-December.

We thank you again for your kindness and continued support of this very important mission of Grace Church.

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Sincerely, Cheryl Rossi-Walczak

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Reflections of Zion - 175th Anniversary Celebration, November 11 & 12, 2017



Photos from our 175th Anniversary Banquet, and Rededication of Zion's WWII Honor Roll. Photos courtesy of Lorraine Dowd





























THE 2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES: are now available and are located on a table in the Narthex. Any questions, call Gloria Cifonelli at 315-735-8077.



<u>FOOD DONATIONS</u>: Food offering totals for OCTOBER 2017 is 225 pounds and NOVEMBER 2017 is 200 pounds in weekly donated food. Many thanks for your continued support!

Treasurer's Report

	October 2017 Treasurer's Report								
	Oct 2017		Y	ear to Date		Budget	Over/Under Budget		
Income									
Giving	\$	15,144.74	\$	160,286.05	\$	149,434.50	\$	10,851.55	
Other Income	\$	2,648.25	\$	21,880.71	\$	20,628.27	\$	1,252.44	
Total Income	\$	17,792.99	\$	182,166.76	\$	170,062.77	\$	12,103.99	
Total Expense	\$	15,799.74	\$	190,061.06	\$	204,237.14	\$	(14,176.08)	
Net Income	\$	1,993.25	\$	(7,894.30)	\$	(34,174.37)	\$	26,280.07	

Dear friend in Christ,

I'm puzzled and disappointed that in the midst of so much hurt in our world, the self-improvement industry continues to grow while more people are concluding that the church isn't relevant to their lives. Did you know that in the United States our suicide rate is at a 30-year high (45,000 people per year), drug and alcohol addiction affects 1 in 10, more people die from drug overdoses (60,000 people per year) than gun violence or car accidents, and life expectancy has peaked for the first time in decades. Researcher Brené Brown puts it this way: "We are the most in-debt, obese, addicted and medicated adult cohort in U.S. history."

While this is happening, people in the U.S. are consuming books, events, groups, programs and techniques related to "self-help" to the tune of \$10 billion per year. It's astounding to me that this is roughly six times the amount of money collected by all ELCA congregations for regular member giving last year.

When we connect the dots, this paradox emerges: Significant numbers of people are profoundly hurting, people are spending money to find ideas to make life better, and larger percentages look at organized religion and conclude it doesn't have anything to offer, or isn't worth the effort. How can that be?

As we continue to look for better ways to engage people in a life of faith, in the church, and specifically in becoming disciples and stewards, my prayer is that we can stay inspired. This mission of what we want for people (as opposed to what we want from them), not just life but abundant life, is critical for every one of us. As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, hopefully we can be open to the necessary changes that will unite more people to our Savior Jesus Christ, his good news, and the way of living that he taught and modeled.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart!

Faithfully,

Steve Oelschlager, Stewardship Program Coordinator, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Food for Thought - courtesy of Millie Angevine

In the palm of His hand, may the Father hold you, May the peace of the Son and His mercy enfold you, May the Spirit provide you with blessings enough And the Trinity grant you faith, hope and love.



PLEASE NOTE: The Newsletter Deadline is the 17th of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Thank you!

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December 2017

10:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Christian Ed for all ages 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship Nursery Care is available from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM for children up to age 5

Sunday Worship Schedule

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Saturday 2	9:00am 11:00am Men's Group Mtg. (Breakfast at Tiffany's)	6	2:00pm 4:00pm C. Watkins' Wedding (Zion)	16		23		30		9	
Friday Dec 1	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	8	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10 4:00pm 10:00pm Watkins Wedding Re 6:00pm 9:00pm Christm	15	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 6:00pm 9:00pm RR Hist Soc Mtg (FH)	22	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	29	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	5	
Thursday 30			6:00pm 8:00pm Young Families Dinner (FH) 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Sco 6:00pm 7:00pm Walking 7:00pm 8:00pm Christm	14	6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	21	6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts Troop #20681 Longest Night Service @ 6:00 PM (at Zion)	28	6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	4	
Wednesday 29		9	10:00am 11:30am Bible Study (FR) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible St	13	10:00am 11:30am Bible Study (FR) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Ano 6:00pm 7:30pm Girls Sco 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible St	20	10:00am 11:30am Bible Study (FR) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible St	27	10:00am 11:30am Bible Study (FR) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Ano 6:00pm 7:30pm Girls Sco 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible St	3	
Tuesday 28		5		12	5:00pm 8:30pm N.A.M.I. Mtg. (FH) 7:00pm 9:00pm Council Mtg. (FR)	19	11:30am 12:30pm Your Neighbors Mtg. (FR)	26		2	
Monday 27		4	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room #3 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Ano	11	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room #3 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Ano	18	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room #3 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Ano	25	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	Jan 1, 18	
Sunday Nov 26		3	10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 2:00pm 4:00pm Movie discussion group (Our 6:00pm 7:00pm Contem	10	10:00am 11:15am Hanging of the Greens Service 6:00pm 7:00pm Contemporary Servic	17	10:00am 11:15am SCS Christmas Pageant 10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 6:00pm 7:00pm Contem	24	No Christian Ed Classes 10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 6:00pm 7:00pm Family C 10:00pm 11:00pm Tradit	31	No Christian Ed Classes 10:00am 11:15am Lessons & Carols Service (Zion)
	1/21 - 92/11		12/3 - 8		21 - 01/21		22 - 71/21		62 - Þ7/7 1		12/31 - 1/5

Zion Lutheran Church



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Look us up on Facebook at Zion Lutheran
Church, New Hartford, NY and "like" us!

The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully discern God's call to help people to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

