



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words from Pastor David

January
2020

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.ZionLutheranNY.org

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Christmas day is now behind us and on January 6th we enter the season of Epiphany. As we look toward the new calendar year, I think it appropriate that I express once again, because I can never say "thank you" enough, my thanks to all of you for another great year at Zion.

Throughout the year you have been most generous with your time, talents, treasure, and prayers. Many of you have put in lots of volunteer hours not only in Zion related ministries, but also doing "ministry" and "random acts of kindness" out in the wider world. You have truly been God's hands doing God's work in a variety of contexts and locations.

We also started a couple of new ministries in earnest: the transportation ministry and the disabilities ministry, and financially, you responded well to the challenge of numerous building repairs, including an expensive new roof. In addition, you responded faithfully and strongly to the fall pledge campaign. We enjoyed an outstanding 60th anniversary celebration of the dedication of our present building, upgrading the church's entryway with a Zion Historical Corner to commemorate the event. Our Sunday School teachers have been introducing our Christian faith to numerous youth and worked with them to put on a wonderful Christmas pageant. The council signed a lease for the YMCA to rent the lower portion of the parsonage, thereby providing Zion with additional income. It also voted to allow a congregation of Nepali Christians to "nest" in our church and use our facilities. For the second time, we hosted the InterFaith Matter's *Longest Night* service for those who find the holidays challenging. Throughout the year, the choir and Mary Senn greatly enriched and deepened our worship experience with their musical talents. We achieved our World Hunger goal of \$4,000 once again.

Overall, 2019 was a good year for Zion and it is to a great extent (we have to give some credit to the Holy Spirit J) due to you, your hard work, dedication, faithfulness, generosity, and prayers. So, "Thank You!" one and all for the many and various ways you have contributed to and furthered God's mission through Zion this past year. Please know that it is very much appreciated and not in the least taken for granted.

That being said, I would suggest that Zion is poised for an even better year in 2020. Some of the seeds that have been sown in the past are beginning to bear fruit and our financial outlook is more positive than last year. We still have numerous things to work on in 2020 so we will continue to need your contributions of time, talent, treasure, and prayers. We will also continue to need people to switch from being passengers to crew members on this ship. I am, however, confident that these will happen. This is an exciting time and the Spirit is strong. Thank you in advance for cooperating with Her and following Her as She leads Zion forward.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of walking alongside you on both our mutual and our respective faith journeys.

Pastor David



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

Announcements

BIBLE STUDY:

We finished our brief look at the apostle Paul and will be deciding on Jan. 7 for the 6 PM group, and Jan. 8 for the 10 AM group what our topic will be. So, people are encouraged to bring ideas and/or suggestions for topics to study.

CHOIR

Zion's choir will rehearse at 9 AM on Sunday, January 12 and January 26, and sing for the services those days. There will also be a rehearsal after worship on Sunday, January 19.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The pantries get food from Syracuse, and WIC covers diapers, so they need toilet paper & toiletries. Let's take a couple months to focus on that need. We're on a ROLL! Food Pantry Donations was 110 lbs.! And in that, we were happy to deliver 110 Rolls of toilet paper! Thank you!

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

If you have not submitted your reports yet, please do so ASAP, thank you!

OPWDD

There will be a service at Zion on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5:30 PM (snow date March 24). Please help support this ministry by attending the worship services and/or joining the committee for people with disabilities - see Jim or Kim Marscher, Doug Vibbard, Dan Rodahan, John Coveleski, Lisa Lucas-Myers, or Pastor David for details!

ENDOWMENT/KNOBLOCH MEETING

Wednesday, January 8 at 6 PM.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:30 AM. We'll be discussing and voting on numerous important items including changes to the Constitution and adoption of the Bylaws. Copies of both along with the Annual Report booklet will be available no later than 10 days before the meeting, or Jan. 30th.

SHOE DRIVE FOR THERESA

We are collecting shoes for Barb Wilson's granddaughter, who is in need of a seizure alert service dog. Shoes should be in wearable condition. Most shoes are accepted. There is a box in the Coat Room downstairs. The deadline for shoe drop offs is Sunday, January 26. For more information go to: www.pawsforability.org.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB AT ZION

Keep you eyes open for Book Club at Zion news in Zion Lutheran's Sunday church bulletin. We would love suggestions from the congregation for the club. You can email them to Fran Holzberger at fholzrholz@gmail.com or drop a note in Fran's mailbox in the church office.

ZION'S COLELCTION OF CANS & BOTTLES

We need a new volunteer! We collect nearly 500 cans & bottles within a few weeks and we need someone to return them for us! Ed Grove has been returning them for years and it's time that Ed is relieved of this job. Ed takes them to Bleecker St. in Utica because he finds it quick and easy, (but it's your choice where you want to return them.) One person would be great, but two would be better! Give us a call if you can help. Thank you!

Birthdays & more

A handwritten message in black ink that says "Happy Birthday!" with a small heart and a flourish.

JANUARY

Louise Wurster	2	Emily Lambe	11
Ryan Higgins	2	Pat Jeché	13
Miriam Grove	3	John Kelly	13
Claudia King	3	Kelly McGlynn	13
Daniel Gymburch	4	Alex Snyder	13
Adrienne Midura	4	Bill Thistleton	13
Robert Loomis	5	Jim Marscher	15
Lori Owens	5	Arianna North	19
David Weir	6	Scott Gwilt	20
Seth Marenic	6	Linda Bennett	24
Toby Bonvicino	7	Theresa Weir	24
Fred Majka	7	Eli Rettig	25
Laura Campbell	7	Lou DeAngelis	30
Peggy Joslyn	8	Beth Scarafale	31

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Our dedicated Newsletter Team is looking for one more recruit! If you're available once a month, (*usually on a Thursday morning during the year & Friday's in summer*), around 9:30am, to come in and help assemble our monthly newsletter, that would be great! Just leave a note in the office if you can help. Thank you!

HOW LONG HAS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH BEEN INVOLVED IN OUR FAIR TRADE MINISTRY?

We began partnering with Equal Exchange on October 26, 2006, so it has been thirteen years since we became involved with helping farmers receive a fair wage. We began by offering coffee, cocoa and tea that was displayed on a table in the Fireside Room after church on Sundays. Unpacking, repacking and putting the products back in the closet was a hassle and soon we had a blue cart with three shelves that was locked up during the week and brought out after church. Social Ministry decided to leave the cart out in the fireside room so customers could have access whenever they were in the church. Our next move was to some wooden shelves that used to house our videocassettes. Finally, in 2017, the hutch was acquired.

Please consider making a New Year's Resolution to visit our hutch monthly to find out more about Fair Trade and to purchase one of the many items that are offered there. We have olive oil, chocolate bars, chocolate chips, mangoes, dates, cashews, almonds, hot cocoa and baking cocoa, coffee and tea.

Reminder: The liaison between Zion and Pastor David is the *Mutual Ministry Committee*, consisting of Mark Thompson, Shirley Eadline, and Bob & Bonnie Loomis. If you have any concerns at/with Zion, please contact a member of the committee and it/they will be considered.

Social Messages

STORIES THAT EMPOWER: BUILDING THE NEW CITY:

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AND CAMPUS CONNECT TEAM UP WITH ABIGAIL DISNEY

On October 11th Abigail Disney came to Syracuse where she screened *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, her documentary on the “extraordinary story of a small band of Liberian women – Christian and Muslim united – that came together in the midst of a bloody civil war...and brought peace to their shattered country armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions.” Prior to the documentary screening, Abigail participated in a round-table discussion with new Americans, city planners working on Smart City development for Syracuse, and Syracuse University faculty and students. She reflected on the discussion, commenting that as the community develops new technological initiatives, it should take the opportunity to develop a caring economy. The event was held at the St. Stephen Lutheran Church at 873 Dewitt Street in the North Side of Syracuse to encourage community-wide participation. The event was co-sponsored by the Northside Learning Center, Newland Center, and Hendricks Chapel. The students who were involved in making this event possible were inspired to show the film again – so that more of their peers could see it. A second screening of the film took place on Thursday, December 5th, at 7:30PM in Hall of Languages 207. The screening was presented by Campus Connect (the Lutheran Student organization) and the Muslim Student Association of SU with support from the Lutheran Campus Ministry and Muslim Chaplaincy.

Thank you to Abigail Disney for being willing to participate in our Instagram contest! The details are as followed: **First Step:** Watch the Documentary, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”

Call Chaplain Gail Riina (315-251-4739) if you would like to have a group screening and discussion in your congregation. **Second Step:** Tell your story of the brave women around you who have done good deeds and fought for a societal cause or share any of their achievements, with the hashtag [#lcmmcpaythedevil](#) and tag [@cusecampusconnect](#). Deadline to submit is January 21st. The person with the most number of votes will have their story read by Abigail Disney and shared on her social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Roof Replacement

On May 12, 2019, sixty-two members attended a properly called congregational meeting where a motion was introduced and unanimously passed allowing the Church Council to spend \$68,600 to replace the roof at Zion. During discussion on the motion, the congregation was informed that the council had requested bids from three roofing companies and decided to recommend Dennis Padula & Sons Roofing and Sheet Metal Company. Padula was the lowest bidder, the most responsive to questions, and has done other roof repairs for Zion. In order to pay for replacing the roof, the Council will spend \$40,000 of memorial funds, and borrow \$11,600 from the Building Fund and \$17,000 from the Mission Investment Fund (MIF). The Council has decided to go with an “in house” loan of \$28,600 instead of borrowing from an outside source, thereby saving the congregation thousands of dollars in interest. It has also recommended a repayment plan and period for the \$28,600 (this amounts to approximately \$350 per “giving unit,” i.e., a person or family) that will run from June 2019 to Dec. 2021. Each person or family is being asked to pledge to give an additional \$10.50 per month (\$2.60 per week) **over and above their regular offering**. If people would like to give quarterly, semi-annually, yearly, or make a one-time payment, that is certainly okay. In addition, those who have the financial ability to do so are encouraged to give more than \$350 in order to offset those who do not have the means to give the entire amount. FYI – people may continue to use their regular offering envelopes or use the green envelopes for special offerings. Either way, they should mark the extra amount they are giving as “Roof” or “Building Fund.”

Church Decorating Party

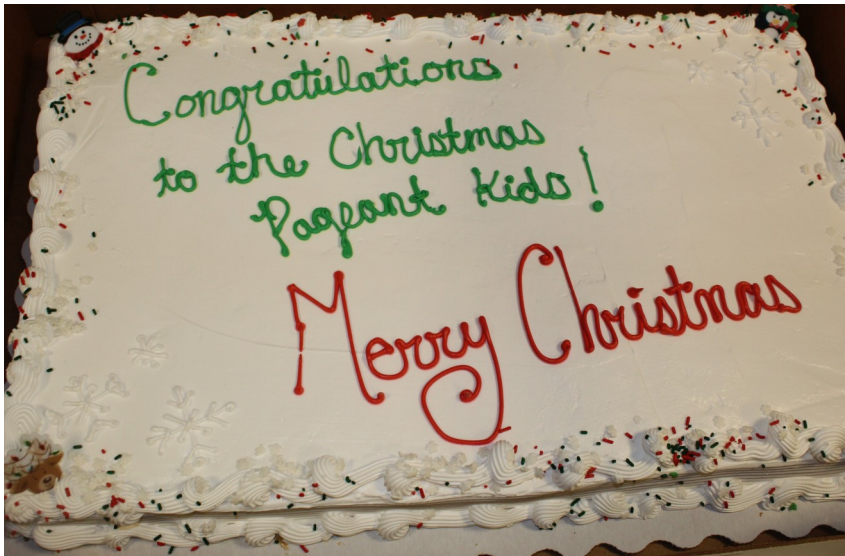


Thank you to Ed & Carol
Grove for donating Zion's
beautiful Christmas Tree
in the sanctuary!!!

Thank you to Matt LaFave
for taking these wonderful
photos during Zion's
Christmas Tree set-up, and
the Church's Decorating
Party! We appreciate you!



Christmas Pageant 2019



Thank you to all the students who performed in this year's Christmas Pageant! Thank you so much to our AMAZING Sunday School Teachers & Leaders. This was a memorable performance and we appreciate all you do!!



Worship Team & Christian Education Schedules

Greeters	
Jan. 5	Evon Pinkos
Jan. 12	Fran & Russ Holzberger
Jan. 19	
Jan. 26	

Ushers	
Jan. 5	Sharon Jeché & Evon Pinkos
Jan. 12	Laurel McCurdy & Laura Hilt
Jan. 19	
Jan. 26	

V O L U N T E E R

Worship Assistants	
Jan. 5	Wendy Stevens
Jan. 12	
Jan. 19	
Jan. 26	

Communion Assistants	
Jan. 5	Laurel McCurdy
Jan. 12	
Jan. 19	
Jan. 26	

PRAYERS FOR CHERISHING CHILDREN

January 2020

Loving God, thank You for hearing our prayers.

Middle School

I pray that children learn to ask for help from teachers, friends, and family if they struggle with school, faith, relationships or other issues. Give them strength and ability to ask for help.

Ages 23-25

I pray that they will be financially responsible and cautious with credit cards. Help them practice good stewardship with their earnings.

ZION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

January

- 5) Lesson/Activity
- 12) Lesson/Activity
- 19) Benchmark/Craft
- 26) Lesson/Activity



February

- 2) Lesson/Activity
- 9) Christian Craft
- 16) No Class (Winter Break)
- 2) No Class (Winter Break)

Students: K – Grade 6 Sundays: 11:15 – 12:00

Youth Christian Education

Youth, 7th grade through 12th grade, are invited to meet in the youth room following the 10am service on Sundays to learn and grow in their Christian faith.

Thank You Letters



Thank you to everyone who helped set up Zion's Christmas Tree, and also at the Church Christmas Decorating Party! Thanks to Mark Thompson, Simon Rai, Katie Smith, John Blackburn, Fran LaGase, Jeff Ritchie, Bob Kulawy, Ujjwal Rai, Abhishek Rai, Micah Rai, James Rai, and anyone that we may have missed, THANK YOU!! Thank you to Tina Ponce and her violin students for providing wonderful music during this time!

Imagine the pleasant surprise when congregants from Zion arrived with bags and boxes of wonderful gifts for our residents—we were overwhelmed! Your entire congregation truly deserves our gratitude and you may be assured that your generosity will be long remembered and treasured by all whom you've touched.

God's Blessings to you, all!

Karen Anne Ostinett

Executive Director The Lutheran Homes Foundation

Social Ministry would like to express our gratitude and thankfulness to everyone who supported and contributed to the 2019 Angel Tree and Mitten Tree. The abundance of hats, mittens and scarves on the Mitten Tree benefited the Thea Bowman Center and the Johnson Park Center. The Thea Bowman Center classrooms welcomed all the toys and most appreciated the generosity of Zion Church in sponsoring 5 of their classrooms. Thank you again for brightening the holiday season to our neighbors.

The family of Helen Bagnall would like to express their gratitude for all the prayers and condolences at the time of her passing.

My highest compliments go to Zion's choir and Director Kim Marscher for their performances on Christmas Eve. When our choir and congregation sang "Silent Night's" first verse in German ("Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht"), illuminated by candlelight in every pew, the time-honored beauty of Zion's history resonated through our sanctuary. "Danke schön" to Kim and our choir! -Jack Henke

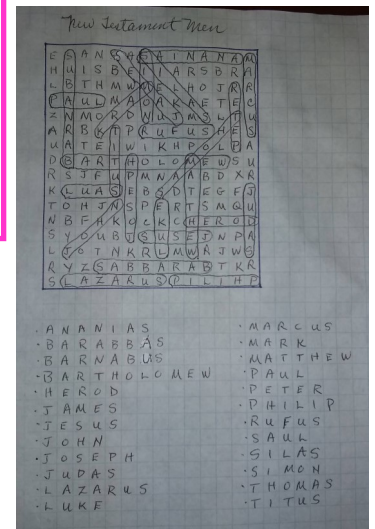
I can't tell you how much we appreciate all that Zion Lutheran Church's Social Ministry and your parishioners do for the children at Thea Bowman. Some of them have very difficult lives, so bringing this kind of happiness to them at Christmas is an incredible gesture. Thank you. Janet Furgal, Thea Bowman House volunteer.

A **BIG** thank you to Laurel McCurdy for covering the office for me a couple of times while I was on vacation!
-Sara

On behalf of Rev. Christine Williams-Belt, the congregation of Grace Episcopal Church and the staff of St. Margaret's Food Pantry, we thank you for your generous support of our Food Pantry. We put together 40 bags of groceries, filled with turkey and all the fixings for our neighbors residing in Macartovin apartments. Thank you again for your support and may God abundantly bless you in the year 2020.

Kind regards,

Edward Dobyna—Food Pantry Manager



Bible Fun

New Testament Men

E	S	A	N	S	A	S	A	I	N	A	N	A	M
H	U	I	S	B	E	I	I	A	R	S	B	R	A
L	B	T	H	M	W	M	E	L	H	O	J	R	R
P	A	U	L	M	A	O	A	K	A	E	T	E	C
Z	N	M	O	R	D	N	U	J	M	S	L	T	U
A	R	B	K	T	P	R	U	F	U	S	H	E	S
U	A	T	E	I	W	I	K	H	P	O	L	P	A
D	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	S	U
R	S	J	F	U	P	M	N	A	A	B	D	X	R
K	L	U	A	S	E	B	S	D	T	E	G	F	J
T	O	H	J	N	S	P	E	R	T	S	M	Q	U
N	B	F	H	K	O	C	K	C	H	E	R	O	D
S	Y	O	U	B	J	S	U	S	E	J	N	P	A
L	J	O	T	N	K	R	L	M	W	A	J	W	S
R	Y	Z	S	A	B	B	A	R	A	B	T	K	R
S	L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	P	I	L	I	H	P

A N A N I A S
 B A R A B B A S
 B A R N A B A S
 B A R T H O L O M E W
 H E R O D
 J A M E S
 J E S U S
 J O H N
 J O S E P H
 J U D A S
 L A Z A R U S
 L U K E

M A R C U S
 M A R K
 M A T T H E W
 P A U L
 P E T E R
 P H I L I P
 R U F U S
 S A U L
 S I L A S
 S I M O N
 T H O M A S
 T I T U S

(answers on page 8!)

Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Carol Daly	Your Neighbors	James Daly
Elsa & Erwin Muehlenberg	Zion Food Ministry	Irma Muehlenberg
Randy Richards	Poinsettia	Laurel McCurdy
Pastor William C. Nolte	Memorial Fund	Jack Henke & Irma Muehlenberg
Parents, and Fern Angelina Boyer	Roof Fund	Fran & Claudia King
Parents	Roof Fund	Don Gregory
Alice Oldendorf	Your Neighbors	Alan & Sally Swierczek
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Linda Bennett	Endowment Fund	Don & Wanda Gregory
Jim & Kim Marscher	Roof Fund	Linda Bennett
Mary Senn, Deb Murdock	Roof Fund	Linda Bennett
Gloria Cifonelli, Jack Henke	Roof Fund	Linda Bennett
Bob & Bonnie Loomis	Roof Fund	Linda Bennett
Carole Grove	Your Neighbors	Linda Bennett
Laurel McCurdy, Pastor David	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Don & Wanda Gregory	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Carole Grove	Your Neighbors	Laurel McCurdy
Ed & Carole Grove	Food Bank	John & Carol Blackburn
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Pastor David	World Hunger	Carole Grove
Janet Bagnall, with thanks	Roof Fund	Bonnie Loomis
Jim & Kim Marscher	Roof Fund	Linda Bennett

		November 2019		
	Nov 2019	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 19,094.00	\$ 174,615.15	\$ 172,699.40	\$ 1,915.75
Other Income	\$ 1,916.00	\$ 24,288.17	\$ 26,583.65	\$ (2,295.48)
Total Income	\$ 21,010.00	\$ 198,903.32	\$ 199,283.05	\$ (379.73)
Total Expense	\$ 19,425.12	\$ 213,944.58	\$ 231,393.27	\$ (17,448.69)
Net Income	\$ 1,584.88	\$ (15,041.26)	\$ (32,110.22)	\$ 17,068.96

January 2020

Help is needed to set up, serve, and clean-up for our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. The sign up sheet is in the narthex, please sign up where you can. Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon	2	3 12:30 Al-Anon	4 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
5 10am Epiphany 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship	6 12:30 Al-Anon 1pm Book Club	7 6:30pm Bible Study	8 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon 12:30 Prayer Group 6pm Endowment/Knobloch meeting	9 5:30pm Walking Group	10 12:30 Al-Anon 6:45-10pm Railroad group	11 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
12 9am choir rehearsal 10am Traditional worship service 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	13 12:30 Al-Anon 5pm Disabilities Ministry mtg.	14 6:30pm Bible Study	15 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon 12:30 Prayer Group	16 5:30pm Walking Group	17 12:30 Al-Anon 5-7pm Tina Ponce violinists in the Fireside Room	18 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
19 10am Traditional worship service 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	20 12:30 Al-Anon 6:30pm Council mtg.	21 5:30pm Young Families Group 6:00pm Bible Study	22 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon 12:30 Prayer Group	23 5:30pm Walking Group	24 12:30 Al-Anon <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	25 11-12:30 Nepali Youth 9-3 Patrick Johnson workshop at Zion
26 9am choir rehearsal 10am Traditional worship service 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	27 12:30 Al-Anon	28 6:30pm Bible Study	29 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon 12:30 Prayer Group	30 5:30pm Walking Group	31 5-7pm Tina Ponce violinists in the Fireside Room 7pm Coffee House	

To Members of Zion:

Foothills Ministries in Holland Patent wish to extend our gratitude for the \$1000 grant presented to the organization through the Zion Endowment fund. These monies will be used to provide an extra summer bag of food for all school age children of families who are clients at the pantry during July and August. The children are out of school during this period of time and are not able to take advantage of the free and reduced lunches provided by the school. The pantry program was developed to help fill the gap of not having enough to eat during the summer school break. The children enjoy the surprises in the bag and parents appreciate the extra help. Thanks for helping your neighbors.

Cheryl Edmiston—Food Pantry Chairperson



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



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,

Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.

Amen.