



Zion's News & Notes

JANUARY 2018

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.

Volume - 1

Circulation - 223

Editor: Debra A. Yacovella

Contributors: Members of the congregation

E-mail: office@zionluth.com

Website: www.zionluth.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Few Words from Pastor David	1
Annual Meeting Reminder	2 & 9
Announcements	2 & 5
Messages from the Secretary	2 & 7
Vignettes from Zion's History	3 - 4
Treasurer's Report	4
Christian Ed Schedule	5
Thank you's & Other News	6
Reflections of Zion	6
Choir Schedule	7
January Calendar	8



A Few Words From Pastor David

As the season of Advent has come to a close and we have celebrated Christmas, I want to thank all those who lent their special talents and gifts, and who participated in some form or fashion, including attending our services. Without all your combined efforts we could not have had the special Advent and Christmas we had. The music was wonderful and very appropriate for each occasion, the Christian Ed adults and kids did a great job with the Children's Christmas Pageant, the sanctuary looked beautiful with the tree, poinsettias, and candles, and attendance was strong. In addition to all the marvelous activity that was Zion oriented, we also hosted the InterFaith Matters *Longest Night* service just before Christmas for the entire Utica/Rome area. I have heard numerous positive comments about this service, so please know that it was very much appreciated by many.

With Christmas and Advent behind us, it is now time for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. These are seasons of joy, and for celebrating and proclaiming God's manifestation in the world in Jesus. It is also a time to reflect on, and ponder, the meaning of Christmas and the appearance of Emmanuel. Along these lines, I commend to you the following poem, *Now the Work of Christmas Begins*, by Howard Thurman, one of the great theologians, educators, poets/authors, and civil rights leaders of the 20th century.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

The past year has been a very strong one for Zion, and much energy has emerged for her and her ministry to the area. I look forward to continuing this trend with you in 2018. I give thanks to God for all that you do, all that you are, and for the privilege of being your pastor. As we prepare to begin another year of ministry together, may our meditations upon the meaning of Christmas extend to include the work of Christmas and our calling to do God's Work with Our Hands. Amen.

Your brother in Christ and fellow sojourner,

Pastor David

The Church Office
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, January
15 (MLK Day).

Dear Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group,

Thank you for the very pretty and thoughtful Christmas ornament. It was very kind of you and will continually remind me of our good times together.

Most appreciatively,

Pastor David



Announcements & Upcoming Events



2017 ANNUAL REPORTS NEEDED! If you are responsible for a report for Zion's 2017 Annual Report, please submit to the office **ASAP!** Please e-mail your reports to Debbie at office@zionluth.com. Questions, please call her at 315-732-4110. Thank you!

2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin with a soup lunch hosted by the Church Council, followed by the business portion of the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM. ***Please put this date on your calendar and plan on attending. WE NEED A QUORUM TO VOTE!*** We hope to see everyone on February 11!



ZION'S MEN'S GROUP will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 6 at Breakfast at Tiffany's. *All men are welcome.*

ZION NEEDS YOUR HELP! Zion needs helping hands after the 10 AM worship service on **Sunday, January 7** to help **UNHANG THE GREENS**. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Please plan on coming and lending a helping hand. **Many hands make light work.**

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE - 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/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.



YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING: On **Thursday, January 11** at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a family dinner & "worshipful play" for families with pre-K children. *Dinner will be provided. Please join us!*

PLEASE NOTE:

The Newsletter
Deadline is the
17th of each

month,

unless otherwise

noted.

Thank you!



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. ****



BIBLE STUDY: Please note, the **10 AM** Bible Study group that meets on Wednesdays will **NOT** meet again until February, 2018. Questions, please contact Pr. David (pastor@zionluth.com or 315-732-4110).

Vignettes From Zion's History: Sophie's Gift

Every good gift, and every perfect gift, is from above and cometh down from the Father.

- James I:17

In the 1960s, the Sunday afternoon before Christmas at New Zion witnessed a performance of the annual "Sunday School Pageant." After, the Luther League gathered for caroling. Chaperones George and Fran Stein, Bob Carlson, Teddi Pierson, Pastor Sprock, and my father, John Henke, among others, filled their cars with our congregation's youth as they brought joyful Christmas melodies to members who needed holiday cheer. Most of these visitations occurred in Old Zion's West Utica neighborhood. In 1960, the church's young people entertained James and Sophie Perry with choral Christmas greetings. I was too young for Luther League then but, since Dad was one of the drivers, he let me tag along.

Sophia "Sophie" Elizabeth Maria Lerch was born in Utica on October 19, 1898, the only child of John and Anna Dagen Lerch. Named for her paternal grandmother, she was baptized by Pastor John Carl Nestel. Sophie was a third generation German-American; John's mother and Anna's father hailed from the "old country." The family lived at 1030 Canal Street, renamed "Oriskany Street" after the Erie Canal was filled, and resurfaced. Sophie's grandparents, parents and, later, she and her husband James, called 1030 Oriskany "home." Her father, John Lerch, was a "tobacconist" (a cigar/cigarette purchaser) who worked with L. Warnick, Brown & Company.

During her formative years, Sophie's parents immersed her in Zion's activities. She regularly participated in Sunday school Christmas, Easter, and Children's Day programs. Pastor Otto Von Buren confirmed her in 1911. A week prior to confirmation, Anna and Sophie hosted her confirmation class for an "evening party." She helped organize events for the church's Young Ladies' Society. And she loved to sing. When Zion's choir entertained Oneida County employees at their office building in 1916, Sophie gave a soprano solo. She belonged to Zion's "choir of fifty" that sang at the 75th anniversary service in 1917. She acted with "Zion's Helpers," an offshoot of the Crescent Dramatic group that prepared young people for the stage. In one mystifying event, she entertained Zion's "Z.B.D. Club" at her home in June 1915. Research has not identified what "Z.B.D." represented. I welcome your assistance!

After high school, Sophie enjoyed sports and social programs at Utica's YWCA. She starred on a ladies basketball team that played in a city league at the Kernan Community Center (now Kernan School) from 1919-1921. The center offered diversified recreation and entertainment for West Utica residents. Zion member Mabel Zoeckler, whose stage talents paved her road to Broadway, sang at a father/son banquet, held at the Kernan Center in January 1921. Another highlight of that program was Zion's Crescent Dramatic Company's performance of the one-act comedy, *Don't Sit on My Hat*.

Sophie worked for the Utica City Directory Company, until New York Telephone hired her as a switchboard operator. She left that position to accept a similar job with the New York State Division of Employment, Department of Labor, where she worked for twenty-five years until retirement. On August 23, 1922, Sophie married James D. Perry in a quiet ceremony at her parents' home. Pastor William C. Nolte conducted the nuptials. James enjoyed a long career as a patrolman for the Utica Police Department. He worked a downtown "beat" and was often seen, even photographed, directing traffic and pedestrians at the intersection of Genesee and Elizabeth Streets. The Perrys had no children.

Like her mother, Sophie was an active in women's organizations. She held local, state, and nation offices in a ladies' society called the "Degree of Pocahontas." When New York's Pocahontas branch scheduled their 1957 convention at Utica's Hotel Hamilton, Sophie persuaded Pastor John Sprock to give the invocation at the opening ceremony. She was also elected to positions of note in the Utica Rebekah Lodge, a division of the Odd Fellows, and in El Mystic Zuanna Ashayhi, Ladies of the Orient, a women's group connected to the Rebekahs. When she traveled throughout the state and country to conventions of these organizations, numerous news articles noted her presence. James Perry belonged to the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Police Benevolent Association.

Vignettes From Zion's History - Continued

Betty LaFave harbors good memories of Sophie Perry, and of Sophie's next-door neighbor/fellow Zion member, Edna Gliffe. As Betty recalled: "My husband, Ray, worked as an auto body specialist at Mel Gooch's Cadillac/Pontiac dealership on Genesee Street in South Utica. Edna bought her gorgeous, shocking pink '56 Pontiac Bonneville at Gooch's. She babied that car. If the Bonneville got the slightest scratch, she insisted that Ray fix its finish. When Edna dropped off her vehicle at Gooch's, Sophie provided her with a ride home. Both ladies invited themselves into the body shop area to make sure that Ray was 'the man working on the pink Pontiac.' My husband told me how Sophie always greeted him with a smile and hug. When we met her in church, she loved to chat and was very interested in our children. What a warm, caring lady!"

Flashback to 1960. Pastor Sprock knocked on the Perrys' door and, when James opened it, everyone shouted, "Merry Christmas!" As we entered the humble Oriskany Street home, Sophie embraced pastor and directed us to gather around the kitchen table. Perhaps alerted to our arrival, she had been baking and the small room, although oppressively hot, felt welcoming on this frosty night. We sang a few carols, pastor offered prayer, and then Sophie took over. She thanked us repeatedly for brightening their Christmas, treated us to fresh cookies, and insisted that we eat them *all*. No one disobeyed. After a few minutes of friendly conversation, we departed into the cold, considerably warmer because of our visitation.

James Perry passed in May 1961. Sophie entered the church triumphant three years later. After her will was probated, Pastor Sprock announced in church that she left Zion over \$42,000. In today's funds, the value of this bequest would exceed \$340,000.

You could hear the congregation gasp that Sunday when pastor spoke those words. You could imagine folks thinking, "Sophie Perry?! \$42,000?!" I doubt, however, that any of Zion's carolers were shocked by the announcement. On that chilled December evening, they experienced the warmth of this lady's gracious, welcoming spirit and fully realized that Sophie Perry understood the importance and joy of giving.

The Vignettes columns are researched and written by Jack Henke.

Additional notes: My deepest thanks go to Betty LaFave for her wonderful memories of Sophie Perry and Edna Gliffe. Also, in 2018, the Vignettes columns will appear in our newsletter every other month.

March's column - Zion's Master Builder: Jacob Agne

Treasurer's Report

	November 2017 Treasurer's Report			
	Nov 2017	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 13,753.16	\$ 174,065.21	\$ 163,019.50	\$ 11,045.71
Other Income	\$ 6,032.08	\$ 27,588.89	\$ 22,691.09	\$ 4,897.80
Total Income	\$ 19,785.24	\$ 201,654.10	\$ 185,710.59	\$ 15,943.51
Total Expense	\$ 21,668.09	\$ 211,729.15	\$ 223,486.59	\$ (11,757.44)
Net Income	\$ (1,882.85)	\$ (10,075.05)	\$ (37,776.00)	\$ 27,700.95

Announcements

YOUR NEIGHBORS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There is an urgent need for people who will make a meal delivery or transport a person to a medical appointment once in a while for **Your Neighbors**. If you can help in any way, please contact Carole Grove at 315-765-1419. Thank you!

ZION ENDOWMENT FUND DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017: The following organizations were selected to receive a charitable distribution from the Zion Endowment Fund for calendar year 2017; **Zion Food Ministry, Your Neighbors, Lutheran Homes Chaplaincy Fund, and Vanderkamp Center.** Zion Church also received a distribution of \$2,680 to assist with the funding of several building maintenance and improvement projects and the Christian Ed Committee received an award for upgrades to the Sunday School classrooms. Total amount of the Endowment Fund distributions in 2017 was \$10,720.

ANNUAL DONATION & OFFERING STATEMENTS: Annual statements for 2017 will only be produced by individual request. Because of software difficulty, we will not be generating statements for everyone. If you require a statement, we can do that for you. We do have all giving records, but we need to know individually who wants them collated in a statement. Do you wish to have a statement? **Please tell Gloria or leave a note in the church office.** Thank you for your understanding!

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.



Zion Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center (CNYVOC), I would like to thank you for your very thoughtful and generous ham donation. Your commitment to helping Veterans in need within our community is sincerely appreciated and will help to provide Veterans and their families with meals for the Holidays. With the help of donations from supporters like you, we continue to see improvements in the lives of those we serve. Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

The CNYVOC Staff

**2018
ZION CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION SCHEDULE**
Students: Ages 3 years – Grade 6
Sundays @ 11:15 – 12:00



JANUARY

- 7 Dig In – Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Night
- 14 Christian Crafts
- 21 Dig In – Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Night
- 28 Christian Crafts

FEBRUARY

- 4 Dig In – Jesus is Rejected
- 11 Christian Craft
- 18 **No Class** (Winter Break)
- 25 **No Class** (Winter Break)

Thank you's & Other News

From the Pen of Mae Parker



Let's make a new beginning
Washed clean by the blood of the King
Another year has been given us
To what or whom shall we cling?

Will we cling to our old ways
Going on as we did before
Or will we open up our hearts
And let Jesus in the door?

Jesus stands and knocks
Never pushing his way in
Gently knocking, gently whispering
Oh man turn away from sin

Open up your sinful hearts
Repent and be set free
Let the Lord of heaven in
And throw away the key.

A Big "Thank you!"

Thank you to everyone who gave an offering toward the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets this past year! Also, many thanks to the Endowment Committee, for giving a grant toward Zion's Food Ministry. Your generosity is most greatly appreciated! All of your gifts really do make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Dear Zion Lutheran Church:



Your generous **food donations** on 11/17/17 & 12/7/17 are most gratefully acknowledged. We appreciate your help. On behalf of our guests of Hope House, we want you to know how much each gift makes a difference in the lives of all who come to us for help and for unconditional acceptance.

The Board and Staff of Hope House

Reflections of Zion



Top: David Bonvicino's First Holy Communion on December 10th.

Below: The Decorating party on December 8th.



From the Secretary ...



If you receive Zion's monthly newsletters via postal mail, and no longer need/desire to have one mailed to you, please let Debbie know by e-mailing her at office@zionluth.com or by calling her at 315-732-4110. This will be very much appreciated, as it will give her better clarity on how many physical newsletters are truly needed each month. Thank you!

TO ACCESS OUR NEWSLETTERS ON OUR WEBSITE: Please go to www.zionluth.com, and scroll down and click on the "Newsletters" link, and you will find our newsletters that you can download as you wish.



I would like to thank everyone at Zion who remembered me in a special way at Christmas time. Your cards, baked goods, and gifts are all so appreciated and mean a lot to me.

Love,
Debbie

PLEASE NOTE:

A Change in Plans

We will **NOT** be having a *Healing Service* on Sunday, January 7 as is listed in the January Newsletter Calendar, and in the upcoming Saturday *Observer-Dispatch* (**The change in plans came too late to correct the listing in the O-D**). Sorry for any confusion/inconvenience!



Zion's Choir Schedule

January 7 - GATHERING CHOIR will sing "We Three Kings" from With One Voice (blue hymnal # 646) at the anthem time during worship. **No choir rehearsal after worship**, due to the "Unhanging of the Greens".

January 14 - Choir will meet at **9:30 AM in the sanctuary** to practice "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
- Johnson, ELW #841, vs. 1

January 28 - Choir will rehearse in the choir room at 9 AM and will sing "Holy Lord of All" - Williams for the 10 AM service.

FOOD DONATIONS: Food offering totals for **DECEMBER 2017** is **280 pounds** in weekly donated food. Many thanks for your continued support!

January 2018

Sunday Worship Schedule

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 31	Jan 1, 18	2	3	4	5	6
	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED		12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible Study (FR)	6:00pm 8:00pm Endow/Knobloch Mtg 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts Troop #20681 6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	9:00am 11:00am Men's Group Mtg. (Breakfast at Tiffany's)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 AM Traditional Service	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room) 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	5:00pm 8:30pm N.A.M.I. Mtg. (FH) 7:00pm 9:00pm Council Mtg. (FR)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 5:30pm 6:30pm W&M Mtg. (FR) 6:00pm 7:30pm Girls Sco 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible St	6:00pm 8:00pm Young Families Dinner (FH) 6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 7:00pm 9:00pm RR Hist Soc Mtg (FH)	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 6:00pm 7:45pm Contemporary Service	MLK DAY OFFICE CLOSED	11:30am 12:30pm Your Neighbors Mtg. (FR)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible Study (FR)	6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts Troop #20681 (FH) 6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 6:00pm 7:45pm Contemporary Service	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room) 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)		12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 6:00pm 7:30pm Girls Scouts Troop #20003 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible Study (FR)	6:00pm 7:00pm Walking with Friends (Zion)	12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)	
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
10:00am 11:15am Traditional Service 6:00pm 7:45pm Contemporary Service	9:30am 2:30pm Financial Team (Conf. Room) 10:15am 11:15am Pilates Class (FH) 12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10)		12:30pm 1:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. (CR #10) 6:30pm 8:00pm Bible Study (FR)			



"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 French Road
New Hartford, NY 13413

CONTACT INFO:

Phone: 315-732-4110

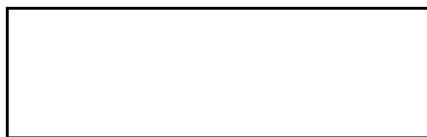
Fax: 315-732-0067

Email: office@zionluth.com

Website: www.zionluth.com

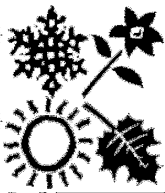
Look us up on Facebook at **Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY** and "like" us!

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



OFFICIAL NOTICE

2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin with a soup lunch hosted by the Church Council, followed by the business portion of the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM. **Please put this date on your calendar and plan on attending. We need a quorum to vote!**

We hope to see everyone on February 11!