

**Bulletin Sentence: 1 Corinthians 1:7** "...so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." The Lord sees to it that we do not lack any gift – He has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ as well as every earthly need. He is the Provider. And we can trust Him to always provide for us in every way.

**November Financial Overview:** In the general fund, expenses exceeded income by \$9,885.81 for the month of November. Year to date in 2017, expenses exceed income by \$43,897.32 in the general fund. The cash balance in the general fund at the end of November was \$48,802.07. Average weekly giving in November for envelope and loose offerings was \$11,517.67. Average weekly giving year to date for envelope and loose offerings was \$10,971.12. Our average weekly need estimate for envelope and loose offerings in 2017 is \$11,461.54. For more detailed reports, please see the financial statements which are available in the narthex. Thank you for your faithful stewardship and generous support to serve our Lord.

**Church Attendance December 2 , 3 & 6**  
**Saturday: 112 Sunday: 162 Wednesday: 78**

**Offerings for** December 2 & 3 **\$10,948.25** (Weekly need is \$11,461.54)

**Those serving this week:**

**Organist:** L. Wegener

**Altar Guild for** December: Lynn Leinberger 989-662-2545

**Sat:** ELDERS: Dennis Hyatt and Terry Wirsing  
USHERS: Bill Gehoski, Sully & Sawyer Whalen & Dennis Hyatt

**Sun:** ELDERS: Dean Kohn and Chris List  
USHERS: Mark Steih, Andrew Penkala, Erin Ettline & Shari Smith

**Wed:** ELDERS: Pat Morand and Herb Leinberger  
USHERS: Landon Murphy, and Joey, Autumn & Steve Wiedyk

**Pastors:**

Andrew Menz 269-313-2497 Email: andrewmenz@gmail.com  
Seth R. Hemme 989-600-5343 Email: pastorhemme@yahoo.com

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# Welcome

*I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.*

**December 9 & 10, 2017** *Psalms 122:1*

The mission of Zion Lutheran  
is to better know & show Christ's love.

**Worship Whys :** Why do we use an Advent wreath? Often in the Bible readiness for Jesus' return is pictured in terms of having a lamp burning brightly. As Christmas nears more candles are lit. The traditional use of Advent candles originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Philippians 4:4. ("Rejoice! . . . the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (December 25-January 5).

**The Practice of Holy Communion:** The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, we request that only those who are instructed in the sacrament and one with us in faith take part today. Please speak to a pastor if you have a questions about this. The center of the tray holds white non-alcoholic wine.

**Our focus** today is on the words of Isaiah 40. God spoke through his prophet to his people Israel, "Comfort, Comfort." As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth that same God speaks to us and says, "Comfor, Comfort."

**This week at Zion**

**Sun 10**      **Worship w/ Communion 9 AM**  
**Family Bible Hour 10:15 AM**  
**Jr. Confirmation Class 6-8 PM**

**Tue 12**      Senior Luncheon 12:30 PM

**Wed 13**      Ladies Bible class 9 AM  
Quilting 10 AM  
Jesus' Birthday Party & Christmas Bazaar 2-7PM  
Advent Dinner 5 PM  
Advent Service with Sunday School Christmas Program 6PM

**Sat 16**      **Adult Bible Class 5:45 PM**  
**Worship 7PM**

**Sun 17**      **Worship with PS/Y5s & Kindergarten Christmas**  
**Service 9 AM**  
**Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM**  
**1st—8th grade Christmas Service 4 PM**

**We will be having a door collection on December 16 & 17 for Pastor Mahlburg and his family.**

**Retable Flowers:** are given in thanksgiving to God for His many blessing on their 63rd wedding anniversary, from Earl and Shirley Gerstacker.

**Memorials:** a monetary gift has been received in memory of Melvin Lederer on his birthday on December 14th to CGLT from Debra Lederer and family. A monetary gift has been received in memory of Shannon Yvonne (Kohn) Brandt on her 60th birthday to CGLT from Bill & Kathy Kohn.

**My sincere appreciation** to the many of you for your prayers on my behalf and to Pastor Menz and Pastor Hemme for their many visits and prayers. Thank you to each and all. Health improvement is slow, but by the grace of God is occurring. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Pastor Westphal.

**Pastor's Bible Class:** will look at the lessons for today. Please join us for the study Saturday at 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary or Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the cafeteria as we grow in our faith!



**Sunday School:** This week, Sunday School students study “Esther.” In the actions of Esther, we see the pattern of deliverance that God sketches throughout the story of Israel, a pattern that finds its fulfillment in Jesus, our Savior. Consider discussing, “How did Esther preserve the Jewish people? Why is the story of Esther important?”

**New Business**

**12.3.17.G** A motion was made, supported and carried to authorize and establish housing allowances for called workers in accordance with the amounts they requested from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

**12.3.17.H** A motion was made, supported and carried to nominate Pastor Sam Reith of St. Paul in Sanford as the Midland Circuit Visitor. Chairman Greg Wirsing has appointed William Krause to the Board of Trustees replacing Martha Currie who resigned.

**12.3.17.I** A motion was made, supported and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Menz closed the meeting with Prayer  
In His service,  
Megan Keyser

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In accordance with the bylaws of the Endowment Fund, the Fund Committee shall distribute or accumulate the income earned by the Fund each year. The Fund Committee is now receiving requests for projects from all organizations of Zion Lutheran Church and School. These projects cannot be used to defray any ordinary or necessary operating expenses of Zion.

All requests must be received in writing using the 2018 Endowment Fund Distribution Request Form. This form may be obtained from the Church secretary. **Please place all requests in a sealed envelope marked “Endowment Fund” and place in the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church basement by January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** If you have any questions, please call Ted Datte at 450-8935.

### **School Staff Report – Colett Dominowski**

Please join Zion Lutheran and Michigan Blood on Sunday, December 17th from 10:30am-3:30pm as we host The Holiday Step-Up Blood Drive. I can't think of a better gift than the gift of life! Michigan Blood will donate \$10 per person that attempts to give blood (even if you are not successful at giving). We are using the money raised to give to our second quarter chapel recipient; Cooley's Anemia Foundation. This foundation helps children with the blood disorder Thalassemia. We have two students in our own school with this disease and we want to support them and their families. We need at least 17 successful donors to receive the donation from Michigan Blood!

You are invited to attend "From Heaven Above". Our Christmas programs will be on Sunday, December 17th. Preschool, Young 5, and Kindergarten will present at the 9am service. The 1st-8th grade students will have their presentation at 4pm. We have already started practicing and we are excited to share the message with you.

School will start Christmas break with a noon dismissal on Wednesday, December 20th and will resume Tuesday, January 2nd.

### **Pastor's Reports – Pastor Menz/ Pastor Hemme presented by**

#### **Pastor Menz**

New Member class has concluded and there will be 9 people joining Zion. There will also be 3 baptisms, 1 adult and two children.

The pastors will be preaching on Advent hymns for the midweek services this year.

November has been an extremely busy month for hospital visits, please keep the sick and shut-in in your prayers.

Pastor Hemme had a nice vacation in Florida in November. Thanks to the Youth Group members and their parents for helping set up the Christmas decorations in Church.

A special thank you to Herb and Lynn Leinberger for coordinating the Christmas decorations and all the time they put in over the Christmas season at Zion.

#### **Old Business**

Voters meetings in 2018 will be in March, June, September and December.

#### **New Business**

**12.3.17.F** A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the proposed January through June 2018 budget.

**Faces of the Reformation Bible Study** will not be meeting this month. Classes will resume after the Christmas holiday season.

**Midweek Advent Services** will be held this year at a different time, on a trial basis. Our services will start at 6PM. There will be a meal to follow on the 6th and the 20th at 6:30. On the 13th, those who wish to have a meal are encouraged to take part in the meal for Jesus' Birthday Party at 5.

**It's time to re-subscribe or subscribe to the Lutheran Witness.** Subscriptions ordered through our church will include the Michigan In Touch supplement at no extra cost. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2018, but orders need to be in to the church office by December 15, 2017 to take advantage of a discounted District rate of **\$11.60/year**. For those who are able, payment should be made directly to the church office. If you have any questions about subscriptions, contact the church office.

**Cookie Plate Donations** – The Ladies of Zion will be assembling cookie plates for our shut-ins and those who will be served by the Zion Food Pantry for the holidays on Wednesday, December 13. It was very helpful that our congregation members contributed cookies for this project last year, and we invite any who can do so to help us again this year. Please leave your donations in the church basement any time before 9:00 a.m. on December 13.

**Cemetery update:** Phase one of the road project is complete. Phase two, asphalt and landscaping will begin in the summer of 2018. Memorials or donations are very much appreciated. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

**Welcome to the Lord's Family:** This weekend we will welcome to our heavenly Father's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Kaci Mae Bennett, infant daughter of Shane and Sara Bennett. Kaci was born on November 17, 2017. Sponsors for Kaci are Chad Bennett and Amy & Jimmy Parsons. May God who has begun this good work in Kaci see it to completion in the day of our Lord's appearing. We also welcome Sara Gentle to our heavenly Father's family through Holy Baptism and Adult Confirmation. Sara's sponsors for her baptism are Bill and Cathy Kohn.

**Thank you** for all who helped make the Smorgasbord a success. It has enabled us to donate \$6500.00 to CGLT. The Ladies of Zion

**In Sympathy:** Judy Glazier died this past Wednesday and now rest from her labors. Visitation will be here at church on Sunday at 1 PM with service to follow at 2. We pray for her family and all who mourn her loss.

**Join us as we welcome** to our church family here at Zion the following new members by adult confirmation, affirmation of faith and transfer: Matthew & Samantha Schnell, Mary Hunsinger, Jennifer Spencer, Josh & Amy Chartier and Chris and John Brock.

## Voters Meeting Minutes

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Greg Wirsing. There were 56 voters present. Pastor Hemme opened the meeting with prayer.

### Report from the Nominating Committee – Greg Wirsing

A lengthy discussion was held concerning church attendance and it's relation to service as a board member of the congregation as well as the role of the nominating committee.

**12.3.17.A** A motion was made, supported and opposed by a show of hands to postpone the election of Church Officers until January 2018.

**12.3.17.B** A motion was made, supported and carried to accept the ballot as presented.

Election of Officers and Board Members took place by secret ballot. The elected officers and board members are as follows:

Vice Chairman: Greg Wirsing

Secretary: Megan Keyser

Board of Elders: Dean Kohn, Chris List, Pat Morand, Ralph Riske

Board of Trustees: Chris Keyser, Aaron Kukla

Asst. Financial Chair: Mary Jo Brandt

Asst. Financial Secretary: Barb Gehoski

Board of Christian Day School: Jerry Diener, Krista Wittbrodt

Board of Parish Education: Emily McMenemy

Board of Youth: Jennifer Trevillian

Cemetery Committee: Randy Fritz

### Secretary Report – Megan Keyser

**12.3.17.C** A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the meeting minutes from November 5<sup>th</sup> 2017.

### Treasurer Report – Jodi Kukla

**12.3.17.D** A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the Treasurer's report from November, 2017.

### Board of Elders –Chris List

Membership changes

New accessions by Baptism: *Olivia Grace Doman infant daughter of David and Crystal Doman, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

*Graham William Morrisette infant son of Scott and Sara Morrisette, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

**12.3.17.E** A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the membership changes.

### Board of Trustees – Presented by Greg Wirsing

Update on septic field project: Drain tile will soon be placed to allow the septic field to be moved to its new location.

### Board of Christian Day School - Tonya Kuizenga

Twelve CMIFs (Commissioned Minister Information forms) for eligible candidates to be called as 5th/6th grade teachers, were received from the Michigan District. The candidates were briefly reviewed during this meeting. Board members will review each CMIF privately and bring their top 5 choices to the next meeting for further discussion.

The board will be assembling the peanut/candy bags at our next meeting. The bags will be distributed to children following the Christmas services.

### Board of Parish Education – Presented by Pastor Hemme

The Christmas program for the Sunday school students will be on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> with a mandatory practice / rehearsal on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>. This year's offerings collected will go towards a family through the "Adopt a family" program. The adopted family is a mother, a father and a 2 ½ year old daughter.

### Valley Lutheran Report – Jim Klein

Nothing to report.

### Board of Youth – Krista Klein presented by Pastor Hemme

The Youth Group helped decorate the church, Sunday, November 26th which was followed with pizza. The Zion junior high dance including the area Lutheran schools is set for December 9th, 7-10pm. The lock-in is scheduled for February 10th.

### School Staff Report – Colett Dominowski

Volleyball season completed with the A-Team being undefeated and the B-Team only losing one game. The A-Team did a great job in the tournament and took 3rd place. Thank you to all the parents and a few Valley students that volunteered to help make the tournament run smoothly.

Basketball practices for both boys and girls have started and are underway. The official game season will begin in January when we return from break.

Jesus' Birthday Party will be on Wednesday, December 13th. Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause will be there from 3:30pm-4:30pm to read to the children and take pictures with them. Please visit the Holiday Bazaar in the gym from 2pm-7pm; we are hoping to have a gym full of vendors with great Christmas shopping opportunities. We will be serving a full turkey dinner at 5pm with all the fixings; mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, cranberry and more. We also invite you to our Advent service at 6pm. \*\*Please note this time for dinner is going to be different than the other two Advent potluck dinners, we will serve dinner at 5pm before service this day only\*\*