

# MOUNT ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

863 Lewisberry Road, Lewisberry PA 17339

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear friends and members of Mount Zion,

I've always been proud of our church, Mount Zion, in our mission of reaching out, near and far, to aid the needs of this world. RedCAP; Christ Lutheran (in Harrisburg); God's Global Barnyard; Little Dresses for Africa; Red Land Food Ministry; Christmas in a Shoebox; the benevolence contributions; CROP Walk, and many more. I see this activity, not so much as service projects, but opportunities of reflecting the light, truth, love, and presence of Jesus in this world. God's love endures forever and we, as His people, are to show that out of gratitude for the love He first gave us.

The Bible is composed of many books that can be classified as poetry, history, prophecy, stories, songs, laws; but above all, the Bible is a revelation of God's love for His people. We need to expose ourselves more and more to God's word, that we may continue to grow in the knowledge of what God's plan is for us; as individuals and as a church. Our God is continually enabling and calling us to be a part of His revelation of love in this

world. All of us have been blessed with various gifts of the spirit.

As we gather as a family of Mount Zion, we must, as we are able, be an active part of our family. A few Sundays ago, Marissa Ohl was our acolyte for the first time. Even though it was a communion Sunday, involving more duties for the acolyte, Marissa did an outstanding job. But what touched me the most was her willingness and look of excitement in being the acolyte. It should serve as an example for those of us that may grow complacent in our call to service.

Each day is a new day with opportunities. In our church we have these opportunities for all ages. Our church "happens" because of us and our involvement and opportunities for both young and old and in-between. We need more youth to serve as acolytes. We need willing people to serve on our council and be a part of a committee. Our Sunday church school needs growth. We have the teachers and the curriculum. We need more students. We have opportunities of gathering as God's family every Sunday and special mid-week occasions.

God has richly blessed us with more than we realize. We take too much for granted. May we strive to live lives of thanksgiving, "seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Pastor Tim

### STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2014

Baptism	1
Deaths	7

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

More than 800 million people — that's 1 in 8 people in our world today — are hungry. Mount Zion once again generously donated to ELCA's fight against world hunger by the giving of animals to families in countries with devastating poverty. These gifts of animals fight hunger and transform lives. Your donations support long term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come.

This past summer, Mount Zion collected book bags and school supplies for children in our area for distribution by RedCAP. The Vacation Bible School children added to our collection by bringing more

school supplies. We had a record amount with over 50 book bags and a tremendous amount of school supplies to donate to local children.

Our church helped support Lutheran World Relief by collecting personal care kits for those who have fled from war or disaster. It's a comfort for families that have little left in the world. Many kits went to Nepal to the many people affected by the extremely powerful earthquake in April. LWR responded to immediate needs on the ground through the distribution of food rations and temporary shelter to more than 20,000 people to ensure that those who have lost their livelihoods are able to meet their basic needs during this difficult period. LWR distributed 9,240 quilts, 1,000 personal care kits and 100 water filtration units so that safe water was available.

As the civil war in Syria continues, Lutheran World Relief is also shipping personal care kits to Serbia to distribute to refugees and migrants. Since October 2012, LWR has provided \$7.05 million in assistance to Syrian refugees, reaching more than 235,912 beneficiaries.

This year Mount Zion also helped with LWR's urgent need for school kits. To the children who receive these kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting

an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. Education can help change the world.

Thank you for your gifts to Operation Christmas Child this year with 40 shoe box gifts. Samaritan's Purse works to aid suffering people in the name of Jesus Christ. Your generosity helps them to continue sharing the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel while giving these gifts to the children.

Every year we collect winter hats, gloves, scarves and socks for needy children and adults. Many thanks for the amazing amount of items donated.

Thank you to all for your generosity in giving to these worthwhile projects. *Please have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.*

Suzann Zinn  
Mary Lou Jones

#### **RECREATION & FELLOWSHIP**

The year of 2014 ended with our New Year's Eve covered dish and communion on December 31. We held our Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 28. We had a large amount of eggs, but a small attendance. But, this just meant more eggs and candy for those who attended. This year we had a "Glow Bowl" at the Lincolnway Bowling Center. This was very well attended and everyone had a great time. We had to cancel the

Strawberry Festival which was to be held on May 31, due to lack of interest. Once again we were very appreciative to Mike and Linda Stock, for opening up their home and welcoming us for the church picnic August 23. It was beautiful weather and some of the younger ones in attendance used the pool. Our Apple Festival was held October 11. Everyone enjoyed apple dumplings and ice cream. We will end the year again with the New Year's Eve covered dish and communion. Again, we ask for the congregation's input for any ideas for new events and also, how to increase the attendance at our events.

Joyce Snyder, Bruce Sauder, Mike Stock and Pastor Tim.

#### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

The Worship and Music Committee has met throughout the year as needed to discuss settings and music for all the church seasons. The committee consists of Dick Gipple, Pastor Tim, Tim Kauffman, Esther Long and Jenn Nauss. During the season of Lent, the committee once again planned soup suppers, which were held on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. The soup suppers, as well as the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services were well attended. The committee organized volunteer readers for the soup suppers, Palm Sunday service, and Tenebrae Service on Good Friday.

A Hymn Sing was held in June. The Chime Choir and Senior Choir shared their talents throughout the winter, spring and fall. The annual choir dinner was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Sunday church school children began singing again at the end of each month, beginning in September.

The pianos were tuned in September. A Volunteer Litany was held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>; the committee included a "Volunteer Opportunities" sign-up sheet in the bulletin, which was distributed to council members and committee chairpersons. Approximately 20 people volunteered to serve Mount Zion in a variety of capacities. Thank you to all who volunteered.

During the season of Advent, an Advent Lessons and Carols service was held Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve Services will be held Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm. A Christmas Lessons and Carols service will be held Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 worship service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn Nauss

#### **HILLTOP CEMETERY**

From the time I acquired this position on the cemetery committee, I started work repairing many tombstones. On September 19, we had a work party involving the scout troop of the church.

We had a few scouts and a few parents, plus church members. Again on October 10, we had a work party with church members only. Altogether, we have repaired 23 tombstones to the best of our abilities, with many more to be done. This is a huge undertaking that will require many helping hands. At the end of July, the cemetery mower was repaired by Keith Strayer. It required new spindles and blades. We had 2 burials; Mary Jane Ahlberg -8/22/15 and Robert W. Klinger - 9/24/15.

Submitted by James Raback

#### **CHURCH PROPERTY**

The AED battery was replaced.

Mike Stock installed grab bars in the downstairs women's restroom, replaced the mop sink and faucet, repaired one of the heat pumps, and replaced the church water heater. The kitchen grease trap was opened and 10 gallons of grease was pumped out and a new grease trap baffle was installed.

We received a letter from DEP about the nitrate problem we are experiencing. Mike sent a copy of the letter to a hydraulic engineer to help us resolve the problem. Pastor Tim and Mike met with the engineer in June. The engineer recommended that we install a UV crystal and light to solve the problem. To purchase and install these

items would be a very large expense. This fall, Pastor Tim reported that the current well was not providing a sufficient volume of water. We will need to drill a new well in the next year to solve the water flow problem. It is also hoped that it will also solve the nitrate problem.

A heat pump that was installed 1977 was replaced at a cost of \$8,000 in August.

Adam Kane repaired the outside walls on two classrooms with Dry-Lock painted in early December.

Submitted by Jim Page



