

MT. ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
863 Lewisberry Road, Lewisberry PA 17339
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PASTOR'S REPORT

We have journeyed another year in faith. God is the Rock of Mercy for the chances and changes of our lives and for the life of this congregation.

This past year I have enjoyed learning to know better the people of Mt Zion. You have continued faithfully to attend worship and to serve the community in all the ways you do. You serve with joy. This has been a critical year for the congregation because of Pastor Tim's retirement. You have welcomed me even while adjusting to the loss of the pastor who loved and served you for so many years. Change is difficult, especially when a community navigates change together. Thank you for the opportunity to walk with you this year. There are no shortcuts to conversation for learning stories and sharing moments of ministry. Your faithfulness has been a validation of Pastor Tim's ministry among you for 47 years. I have been renewed and inspired by the stories you have told of his love and patient ministry among you.

This past year we grieved the deaths of Ed Berch, David Dietz, Joel Forney, Marion Gray, and Leonard Schwartz who joined the church triumphant. We confirmed Madison Ohl.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as interim pastor. It is both an honor and a pleasure to do so. This has been a welcome year of growth for me.

We continue to watch and wait for Christ this season of Advent.

Pastor Roy

FAREWELL TO PASTOR TIM

The new year of 2018 began with heavy hearts as the congregation prepared a Farewell covered-dish luncheon for Pastor Tim who had served Mt. Zion for 47 years. The congregation pulled together to make this a wonderful event for all to remember. The celebration began with Pastor Tim saying grace. The congregation brought an overabundance of food, with many volunteers helping to set up, serve, and clean up. . .and providing beautiful table decorations.

Jennifer Piazza-Pick and Amy Hughley sang a special duet as they had done so many times at church services during their youth. What beautiful voices!!! Pastor Kevin shared some thoughts and then Pastor Tim was presented with several gifts: a shadow box with a starfish, a Scrapbook with memories throughout the

years, and a fun loving presentation in recognition of Pastor Tim's time at Mt Zion. Gloria was not forgotten either as she was given a beautiful necklace and a special thank you for all her years of teaching Sunday School, providing special music, and being a prayer warrior. We had a little toilet paper fun; a few words from Pastor Tim; and all the children sang Pastor's Tim favorite song, *Jesus Loves Me*. The celebration ended by singing the Doxology.

What a glorious special day! Special thanks to everyone who helped make this a perfect farewell to our long time, beloved Pastor Tim and Gloria.

CEMETERY

Interments for 2018: June 2018 – Frank and Sandra Keener; August – Roy Stone; November – Joel Forney

In July, a new battery was purchased for the John Deere riding mower. Council is talking about buying a new riding mower to replace the two we have.

Tom Reynolds was retained for mowing and weed-whacking the cemetery. He and his brother did a great job keeping the cemetery grounds attractive week after week.

By the end of this summer, all stones were repaired. Unfortunately, a motorcyclist crashed into the cemetery, damaging 4 stones. His insurance will cover repair costs, which is \$1,600. Gingrich Memorials will repair the stones as soon as the ground can handle the heavy equipment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the mowing and weed-whacking until Tom was retained for the full-time position.

Respectfully,
Jim Raback, Caretaker in charge

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School children performed a Christmas storybook as the 2017 Children's Pageant. Thank you to everyone who participated, organized, and attended the service, making it a success!

One youth was confirmed as a member of Mount Zion this year – Madison Ohl.

Sunday School attendance has remained low this year, but I would like to thank all who attend and the dedication of the teachers:

Preschool-2nd Grade: Kathy Kauffman/Zach Kauffman

Middle Elementary (3rd-4th Grade): Kathy Kauffman/Zach Kauffman

Pre-Teen (5th-6th Grade): Kathy Kauffman/Zach Kauffman

Confirmation: Steve Kauffman/
Bob Ventrone

Adult Discipleship: Deb Milakovic

Adult: Angela Tennis

Due to low attendance in the children's classes, starting in summer and continuing through the school year, Pre-K through 6th grade have been combined as needed.

We did not host a VBS this year, but are looking forward to resuming next year if numbers increase.

At this time, there is not an active Youth Group at Mt. Zion.

Submitted by Kira Kauffman

CHURCH PROPERTY

In April 2017, Council contracted with Shawn Daily to replace the floors in the upstairs bathrooms. He later requested delaying the installation until December due to his busy schedule. He failed to reply to several attempts to contact him in December to begin installation. At the January Council meeting, Finest Wood Flooring was hired to replace the floors at a cost of \$2,579.20. This was a savings of about \$2,000.

In April, a few Council members did a walk through the parsonage to evaluate what repairs and updating my need to be done. In September, Gary Smith did an in-depth evaluation and provided a list

of needs and repairs for the parsonage. Some items already completed are: clean and service the furnace; cleaning the septic tank to comply with Fairview Township regulations; improving security, applying Drylock Masonry Sealer for the basement walls. Some items that need to be done are: repair and replace ground water pipes, replace the room, repair or replace the kitchen counter top, replace the chimney liner, etc. He estimated that it would cost around \$30,000 to do all the repairs. Some of the repairs can be done by church members and some will require outside contractors.

Two new dehumidifiers were purchased to reduce humidity in both the basements in the church and the parsonage. The Basement Expert was contracted to remove mold at both the parsonage and the church basement.

Steve Kauffman updated the marquee facing 382. The key is in the desk drawer and the letters are in the bottom of the bookcase nearest the door to the office.

DEP informed us that ALS-Middletown accreditation was suspended. The nearest accredited laboratory, Laboratory Analytical and Biological Services, Inc. in East Berlin was hired to provide our drinking water analysis to DEP. The church septic was cleaned to comply with Fairview Township regulations.

Allied Roofing installed new rubber roofs to the church in late May and early June. Council is currently soliciting bids to replace the shingled portion of the church and for the parsonage. The plan is to replace these roofs in the spring of 2019.

Jim Hoffman volunteered one of his employees to mow the parsonage lawn and bank. Tom Reynolds was employed to mow the cemetery. The two tractors used to cut the cemetery were serviced before the cutting season began. But we need to consider the purchase of a new mower or we are going to have on-going repair issues with our current ones. Phil Hammond stated that the church needs a heavy duty tractor for the amount of mowing there is in the cemetery.

Submitted by Jim Page

RECREATION AND FELLOWSHIP

The Recreation/Fellowship Committee organized and promoted several recreational and social activities throughout 2018 for members and friends of Mt. Zion. Bowling at Trindle Bowl on March 11 was our first activity of the year. Thanks to Pastor Roy's suggestion, 50+ people from Mt. Zion, Barrens and Filey's churches came together for a very enjoyable afternoon. A good time of fellowship included bowling, pizza and snacks. On March 24th it became necessary to

hold the annual Easter Egg hunt inside the church due to weather conditions. However, the weather did not dampen the excitement of the 13 youth ready to find eggs in this location. (Some parents and grandparents in attendance suggested in the future that a category for adults be included to find eggs as well.)

The rainy weather in the Spring didn't prevent the Strawberry Festival from taking place on Sunday, May 27. Strawberries were located, and the light covered dish dinner, strawberry shortcake with strawberries and ice cream was enjoyed by 22 people in attendance.

Although the temperature and humidity on August 26 made outside activities challenging, many (52) came out to swim, relax, play bingo and savor the chicken, roast beef and covered dishes at Mt. Zion's picnic. Once again, many thanks to Mike and Linda Stock who were very gracious to host this annual event.

The committee decided to have a second bowling activity this year per requests from those who attended in March. Although the attendance on September 16 was light (23), these bowlers were not "couch potatoes" that afternoon, but did enjoy the bowling, pizza, drink, snacks, and fellowship. On October 21, the committee decided to try a new activity, a hayride. Liability issues caused delay scheduling this event, but fortunately and special thanks

to Phil Hammond, all concerns were worked out and a fun filled afternoon for 21 came to fruition. All in attendance had a wonderful time on the hayride, and afterwards a hymn sing, hot dogs, hot chocolate, chips and smores. Many thanks to Dave Ulsh for playing his guitar and leading the hymn sing. We didn't want to give up the Apple Festival/Game night scheduled on October 28. This evening was another Mt. Zion covered dish dinner that included apple desserts. Though attendance wasn't overwhelming, 23 people (who did not go away hungry) shared fellowship and much laughter playing some favorite games of families.

The last gathering of the year is the New Year's Eve covered dish dinner at 6:00 PM. An informal communion service in the Fellowship Hall will be held after the dinner.

Many thanks to everyone who came out to make these activities successful. Special thanks to those who gave of their time to assist in setting up and cleaning up the areas for these activities. We ask for any input from the congregation for new ideas to increase attendance to these events.

Many thanks to the committee: Phil Hammond, Jenn Nauss, Pastor Roy for your time and help that made these events a success.

Submitted by Mary Lou Jones,
Committee Chair

SOCIAL MINISTRY

During 2018, Mount Zion's social ministry has contributed to a number of causes that address persistent social issues throughout the world. While our Church's efforts may seem insignificant when compared to the many needs of the millions of people worldwide, the combined work of many truly affect their lives in a meaningful way.

God's Global Barnyard Project: More than 800 million people live with hunger—that is 1 in 8 people in our world today. Mount Zion once again generously donated to ELCA's fight against world hunger by providing farm animals to families in countries with devastating poverty. Our Sunday School Children with congregation support surpassed the goal of \$1,000 by raising \$1,635 to purchase two Family Farms consisting of a sheep, two goats, a piglet, and several chicken: we also purchased several additional animals. These gifts fight hunger and transform lives. Our 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.

Youth Impact Toothpaste Collection: Over the summer, we collaborated with Youth Impact to help it achieve its 700 tubes of toothpaste goal to go to those most in need in our region. Mt Zion donated 284

tubes of toothpaste out of the 700 goal set by Youth Impact. With local churches working together 900 tubes of toothpaste were collected. York Impact was able to provide "back to school" supplies/food/clothing to over 2,000 students in the region. Thank you again for your unbelievable help and support!!!

Book Bags and School Supplies: During July and August, the Mount Zion congregation with the help of friends collected 27 book bags and assorted school supplies for distribution by RedCAP to elementary children living in our area.

Lutheran Relief for Refugees: Mount Zion collaborated with Lutheran Relief to help refugees. Many Palestinian refugees have made their way into Lebanon after months-long journeys with very few personal belongings. Through our congregation's generous donations, 27 personal care kits along with funds to pay for shipping were sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for distribution to refugees overseas. We are awaiting notice of their final destination. Last year's personal care kits went to El Salvador.

Halima Khalil Al Hajj Moussa, a 17 year old Palestinian refugee, lives in the Ein El Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon. Through the generosity of quilters and kit makers, LWR was able to provide Personal Care Kits to help American Near

East Refugee Aid, (ANERA) meet the needs of refugees like Halima. The content of these kits give Halima a few items of her own amidst difficult circumstances. She and other girls also used the towels to learn traditional embroidery as a form of creative expression. "We came up with the idea of embroidering the towels (in the personal care kits) so the girls could personalize their towels and learn a new skill at the same time," said Almaza Al Chaaraoui, head of the Women Program Center in Ein El Wilweh camp. Your gift of personal care kits touch people in many ways we can scarcely imagine. THANK YOU!!

Operation Christmas Child: This year the Church contributed 15 shoe box gifts to the Samaritan's Purse program, which works to aid suffering people in the name of Jesus Christ. This program shares the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel while giving useful gifts of winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to needy children and adults.

Redland Food Ministry: Mount Zion fights against local hunger through monthly support of the Redland Food Ministry by providing funds, food, and volunteers. Our support helps feed the increasing number of local families unable to access adequate nutritional food.

From January through November 2018, the food bank served an average of 122 families a month, 330

individuals, plus 191 families who signed up to receive a Giant gift card to purchase food for Christmas based on the size of their families. This year these families received a greater amount on their gift cards. When they come for their regular appointments, we give them additional "holiday food" (gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, instant mashed potatoes and stuffing mix) for a Christmas dinner along with their usually food items.

This year, the Valley Grange provided more than adequate space to hold the distribution of Thanksgiving food to 145 local families, many members volunteered to help with this event. It was so nice to not only have the space to organize all the food, but to have ample parking for everyone to get in and out to pick up food.

We purchase food purchased 44,144 pounds of food from the Central PA Food Bank as of the end of November.

This year, Walmart donated 12,350 pounds of food, Darrenkamp's added another 2,463 pounds, and churches and individuals contributed 22,379 pounds. A lot of the food donated from the churches included the fresh produce that Yocumtown Church of God grew in the garden they planted for us: They brought fresh produce at least twice a week during the growing season. Zion Lutheran Church also has a produce

exchange and anything left over was brought to us. Walmart continues to provide us with lots of meat, which we are blessed to receive. They also continue to donate produce, baked goods, bread, and snacks.

This year with the food we purchased and the food that was donated, we've gone through 81,336 pounds of food. Not bad for our little hole in the wall.

It is heartwarming to have so many partners working together to alleviate hunger in our community. Deb Trimmer and Nina Myers work tirelessly to make all of this happen. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated individuals! Thank you both.

Christ Lutheran Church Outreach: Our congregation members open their hearts to provide for the ongoing needs of the Christ Lutheran Health Ministries and Holy Spirit Medical Outreach Service at the Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg. During 2018, Mount Zion donated \$947 from the benevolent funds to Christ Lutheran along with other congregation donated items. Deb Milakovic continues to receive updates of the free clinic's needs and shares the needs with the congregation who graciously meets gathers items for delivery to the clinic.

REDCAP Hat and Mitten Tree: On the first Sunday of Advent, the white Christmas tree

appeared in the lobby. Over the next few weeks the tree will be completely decorated with winter hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for those less fortunate members of our community. The Christmas spirit fills the hearts of our congregation. So many blessing, thank you all!

Thank you to all of the congregation members and friends for generosity giving to our worthwhile and meaningful projects. You continue to show warm and giving hearts to those less fortunate. May you have a blessed holiday season.

Respectfully,
Sue Gordon

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee members, Mary Lou Jones, Timothy Kauffman, Richard Gipple, Jenn Nauss, Pastor Stetler, and Sue Gordon began 2018 working with the amazing, temporary organist Dave Binkley and searching for a new, permanent replacement for Esther Long who retired after 17 years of service as the Church Organist and Choir Director. Dave extended his contract through April as we continued our search meeting monthly and more if needed. We were very fortunate that Bonnie Calhoun agreed to direct the chime choir even with her very busy schedule.

The committee worked through many new challenges following

MINUTES OF THE 2017 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 17, 2017

Council President Jim Page opened the Congregational Meeting.

Pastor Tim led the congregation in prayer.

Nominations:

Two people volunteered to serve on Council – Jim Ruff and Phil Hammond. Jim Page asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a **motion** to close the nominations and approve the nominees was made by Ron Massott, seconded by Barb Casner, and approved by the Congregation.

Following a review of the minutes from the 2016 Congregational Meeting, a **motion** to approve the minutes was made by Ron Massott, seconded by Steve Kauffman, and approved by the Congregation.

There are two members going off of Council – Jenn Nauss and Deb Johnson.

The Budget was presented for 2018.

Steve Kauffman noted that there was an additional \$200.00 budgeted for the sexton to buy cleaning materials. The sexton will buy and submit bills for reimbursement.

Pastor Tim's retirement. Pastor Tim was crucial in making the committee work like a well-oiled engine. We forged forward discussing and piecing together any missing pieces.

During the Lenten season, our committee planned Wednesday evening, soup suppers, with dialogues as in past years. Tim Kauffman graciously volunteered to lead the services and played his guitar. Jenn Nauss joined him on the piano. The soup suppers and fellowship evenings, as well as the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services were well attended. A sincere thank you to Steve Kauffman for leading the Good Friday Service and to all who volunteered to read for the soup suppers and services.

To facilitate the selection of the new Director of Music, the committee developed a job description that was approved by church council. During May, the committee interviewed Jody Diskin who applied for the position. The committee agreed she would be a good fit and offered her the job. She signed a letter of Agreement with a July 1, 2018 start date as the Director of Music.

A summer Hymn Sing was held in mid-August. The committee is reviewing many hymn requests for a second hymn sing. The Thanksgiving Eve service was well attended, with several members from Barrens Church (Dillsburg) attending.

The Chime Choir, Senior Choir, and many talented musicians shared their talents throughout the year. We are very blessed at Mt. Zion to have such a diverse, musically talented congregation.

December is filled with Lessons and Carols. Advent Lessons and Carols Candle-Lightings will be held through December. The Senior Choir and the congregation sang Christmas Carols at the Community Celebration at Whispering Pines, and are going caroling at several retirement communities on December 16th to bring joy to several members residing there. Christmas Eve services will be held Monday, December 24 at 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm. Please join us for the Christmas Lessons and Carols Service on December 30th.

The members of the Worship and Music Committee wish to thank all who shared their musical talents throughout the year. We are so blessed to have such a warm, welcoming, and talented Director of Music, who continues to look for ways to share, expand, and grow our musical talents at Mt. Zion with such JOY! Thank you, Jody Diskin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Gordon

A **motion** to approve the budget was made by Gary Smith, seconded by Joyce Snyder, and approved by the Congregation.

Items from the floor:

Angela Tennis asked for a balance sheet. She asked how much was in the building fund for the roof and redoing the bathrooms. The question was referred to Paul Casner. The church has no liabilities. There is \$35,000 in the building fund. Additional balances: Checking - \$71,000; Money Market - \$155,000; CDs - \$47,000.

David Binkley, interim organist, introduced himself. He is delighted to be here. His home church is Trinity Lutheran in Lemoyne and he has served as organist and choir director at Camp Hill Presbyterian. He reconnected with Pastor Tim in June 2017. He will only be responsible for Worship on Sunday mornings.

A letter of agreement was signed from September through December 3, 2017. A new letter of agreement was signed extending through April 29, 2018.

He applauded the congregation for music leadership that has come forward. Additionally, he reported that there are about a dozen churches in Central PA looking for an organist.

Jim Page, Council President, presented a Christmas gift to Pastor Tim. After 47 years, Pastor Tim will be sorely missed

and has been a great caretaker for our church.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod will provide an interim pastor and will be guiding us through the call process.

Pastor Tim thanked everyone. It is required by Synod that Pastor Tim not be part of the ministry at Mt. Zion. He thanked everyone for the memories and commented that his retirement will be bittersweet.

Christina Griffith questioned the process for acquiring a new pastor. Pastor Tim reported that there will be a study process, to identify the needs of the church. Council will appoint a Call Committee, who will receive names. The Call Committee will interview people and attend Church services. The Call Committee will recommend a candidate to Council, who will recommend to the congregation. The candidate will lead the worship service and the congregation will vote.

The process can be lengthy. Synod will place an interim pastor at Mt. Zion.

Jim Page asked Pastor Tim what services he will be able to provide. Pastor Tim is not able to provide any service. If there is a funeral service, be assured that Pastor Tim will attend. If a family requests Pastor Tim, they must go through the interim pastor or the called pastor for approval.

Dick Gipple asked about the interim pastor. Pastor Tim outlined the interim pastor duties with Synod. The interim pastor's primary duty is to keep the helm steady until the called pastor is in place.

Pastor Tim suggested looking at this as an exciting time. Angela Kauffman asked Pastor Tim to share the rule from Synod. Pastor Tim must have two years with no connection to Mt. Zion.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Massott, seconded by Dick Gipple, and approved by the Congregation.