

September 2019

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Christians Against Christian Nationalism

As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly summary of actions

CHICAGO (Aug. 14, 2019) — Gathering under the theme “We are church,” voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, met Aug. 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

More than 900 voting members:

- Reelected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to a six-year term as ELCA secretary. Rothmeyer, currently serving as executive for administration with the Office of the Secretary, was installed during the assembly’s closing worship on Aug. 10 and will begin her term Nov. 1.
- Approved the social statement “*Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action*” and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment,” which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations. The policy statement was adopted with the witness of 39 ecumenical and inter-religious guests in attendance.
- Approved the triennium budget for 2020-2022, which includes a current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325 for 2020, a current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034 for 2021 and \$68,507,018 for 2022; and an ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21.5 million 2020, and an income proposal of \$21.5 million for 2021 and for 2022.
- Adopted the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA,” which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Witnessed the presentation of the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” which was accepted by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA), and members of ADLA.
- Adopted 26 memorials en bloc, ranging in topics from gun violence to engagement in the Holy Land and gender identity to seminary tuition.
- Adopted a memorial that [affirms the ELCA’s long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.](#)
- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of church and state.

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly summary of actions (cont)

- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of church and state.
- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
- Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that align with the ELCA's social teachings.
- Adopted a series of amendments to the "Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," including one that makes ordination the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service, and an amendment to no longer count deacons as laypeople for representational principles.
- Adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.
- Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a "study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."
- Celebrated the end of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, which concluded June 30 with nearly \$250 million raised in cash, multiyear commitments and planned gift commitments. At the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members approved the \$198 million campaign to help sustain and grow ministries of the church.

Elected members to serve on the ELCA Church Council, churchwide committees and churchwide boards, including-Portico Benefit Services, the Mission Investment Fund and 1517 Media.

News from Luther Chapel - Part of the 3-2-1 Ministry



The construction project in Hanks Hall is coming along nicely and should be done soon. We look forward to a brighter and bigger social hall. Outside lights have been installed all around the building and now you won't need a flashlight out back!

At the last Council meeting on Sunday, August 11, it was decided to have a bin placed in the back parking lot from Mission Partners of Ligonier, PA. Mission Partners operates fundraising programs for churches, fire department and schools through the collection of gently used clothing and shoes. They will provide a clothing collection bin for Luther Chapel. Community members support by giving donations to our bin. Mission Partners picks up on a schedule from our bin to determine how much we have collected. Luther Chapel will then receive a check for the value of the donations. Watch for the bright red bin coming soon.

Another project Council approved is Thrivent's Pop Tab Challenge. Proceeds go to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Sooo, start collecting those pop tabs and bring them to the church. There will be a collection box on the last pew. This initiative only runs from September 1 to December 1.

Boy Scout Alex Beatty, is planning his Eagle Scout project. He has submitted plans to build a cement prayer bench at the back of the church property facing the cemetery. If you would like to donate to the cost of materials, put your donation in the offering basket, marked for Alex's Bench. He will appreciate your help.

WELCA ladies continue to meet each month on the Second Saturday of the month. Next meeting will be Sept. 14, 2019. We will start a new bible study series from "Gather" the monthly WELCA magazine. The study is entitled "No hard feelings?" by Anna Madsen. We will be reading various Psalms for this study. Please join us! At this next meeting we will be packing our Health Kits (that we collected during Lent) and Fabric Kits (a piece of material and thread for someone to make clothes). These will go to Lutheran World Relief. Our quilts will be going to Community Lutheran Partners of West Virginia for flood victims. Need something from RADA? We have catalogs. Many new knives and cool kitchen accessories.

Just ask Kathy Keller or call her at 724-479-3177.

And lastly, WELCOME BACK PASTOR SARAH !! Thanks be to God for all his blessings, for a safe delivery of little AJ and the love and care of family and friends.

GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF AUGUST

Needed for August operating budget:	\$ 20,552.01
Received in August:	<u>\$ 13,011.00</u>
Amount Still Due for August:	\$ 7,541.01
Average Weekly Attendance in August:	59

BOX TOPS

Please continue to save Box Tops to help support the Bethesda Children's Home. Your contribution may be placed in the box located in the back of the nave. Thanks for your generosity!

WHY NOT? CLUB

The Why Not? Club will meet on Thursday, September 5, at 12:30 PM at Ruby Tuesday. Please call Shirley Kelly at 724-357-8229 if you are planning to attend.

Has Anyone Noticed a Police Officer in Zion Lately?

Don't be alarmed if you happen to see one of Indiana's Finest in the rear of the nave during a church service. The local police have instituted a drop in visitation policy to add a little extra security to local church congregations. In light of the reality of the world in which we live, the Indiana Borough Police are randomly dropping in to let us, as well as any less than honorable folks out there know that we are under their protective umbrella. So if you see an officer, thank him for helping to keep us safe!

Bob Gaylor, Council Vice-Chair

THRIVENT REQUEST

Jenn Rising is asking any members who are Thrivent member to let her know. Her phone number is 724-762-1146.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING TEAM

We are building an Emergency Preparedness Planning Team for our family at Zion.

Team members and your thoughts are needed. Our initial team building meeting will be scheduled for early this fall.

If you can be a team member or you have any ideas concerning our emergency planning, please call:

Rik Wissinger - 724-349-1166 or 724-840-2335

An honest look.....

Last fall at our annual meeting the congregation passed a budget plan where spending exceeded our income. Our plan indicated we would spend \$19,363.32 more than our projected income for 2019. Based on giving trends for 2018, it appeared we would be able to support this plan and we voted to accept the proposed budget. Sadly, we have fallen far short of the mark. Not only has our giving not increased to cover the deficit, it has in fact declined.

As of the end of July our spending exceeds our income by \$16,097.32 for this fiscal year of 2019. Projecting to the end of the year, if nothing changes, our deficit will be **\$27,595.44**.

Your council has taken some steps to help reduce expenses, such as the elimination of the paid Director of Christian Education and Vacation Bible School positions and other operating costs reductions. These include reviewing and reducing costs of items such as snow removal, telephone charges, trash pickup, utility costs, etc. More changes will be coming. At the same time we looked at how our money was invested and were able to increase our earnings by \$2,417.00 as of the end of July, simply by opening a savings account to hold funds until needed. This interest earning will project to \$4,100.00 for this year.

The present amount of cash reserves available is approximately \$96,680.00. As you can readily see, it will not be long until these reserves are depleted if we continue to spend \$27,500.00 more than we receive.

This is a critical time for our congregation as we consider the next fiscal year and beyond. Hard choices will need to be made and we will struggle to decide how to approach the future of Zion.

I am asking all of us to pray for Zion. Please think about your role at Zion. Think about what ministries are important to you and our congregation. Put your name in for committees and leadership positions. Give your suggestions to a council member or, better yet, attend a council meeting to convey them in person. Increase your giving if you can.

Together we can make a difference and move Zion forward.

Barb Lockard, Treasurer

BUDGETS...BUDGETS...BUDGETS!

It's that time of year again! We need to prepare a budget for 2020.

As you may be aware, our giving for this year still lags significantly behind the budgeted amounts necessary to meet anticipated expenditures. Next year does not appear to be any more fiscally promising. Therefore your Church Council is striving to find ways to pare down expenses. We will finish this year drawing upon our dwindling reserves if expenditures reach the levels approved by the Congregation last November. Therefore, I ask each committee to search for the minimum amounts they can request for next year. We must learn to live within our income if we are to remain a viable congregation.

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be November 17. Council will vote on a final budget proposal on November 11. In order to review and discuss proposals Council will have to do a preliminary review at its October 14, meeting. Therefore we will need to have all proposals in to me no later than September 30.

I know it will not be easy to pare down your requests. However, we need to make some difficult decisions about the ministries of Zion if we are to continue to be a viable congregation.

Bob Gaylor, Council Vice-Chair

ANNUAL REPORTS!

I am asking that each committee chair person submit your annual report for the 2019 Report to the Congregation no later than October 14.

Bob Gaylor, Council Vice-Chair

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume with Pastor Sarah presiding starting Wednesday, September 4. There is a new time - it will be 10:00 AM instead of 10:30.

Door Security is Everyone's job:

Our new key fob door entry system controls our two main week day access doors (Church Street and Handicapped Parking Area). Our access to the Church for worship through the lower Church Street and the main Sixth Street entrances, still need to be manually opened BEFORE and manually locked AFTER each service. These doors are older and do not always close tightly on their own. While the ushers handle the unlocking and locking of these doors on Saturday night and Sunday morning, we ALL need to take personal responsibility for making sure that the doors are properly secured when we exit. It is easy to do: Just give the doors an extra push when closing and then give a little tug to make sure that the door has latched. This little extra effort on everyone's part will help keep Zion's most valuable asset safe.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

A Big Thank you to all of Zion who helped in so many ways to help make the 11th annual Back to School Bash a success!

This year 349 children were registered; and after they each got a new backpack filled with school supplies, stopped to get a free haircut on the porch of Calvary church, free food, games and prizes, they came to Zion where each received 6 pairs of new socks and underwear. That means over 4,188 pairs of underpants and socks were needed to be donated or purchased, sorted, repackaged, and then divided into individual bags with each child's name. There were many Zion members who helped either before or during the day of the Bash. Whether you donated underwear, monetary funds, volunteered your time, or just said a prayer the day would be rain free, Thank you! Be sure to watch and join us next year.

I am proud of Zion helping to make a difference to the children in need in our community. What a great example of God's Works, Zion's Hands.

Sue Dickson

Installation of New Bishop

The installation of the new bishop of the Northwestern PA Synod ELCA, Rev. Michael Lozano, will be held on Sunday, October 13, at 3:30 PM at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 1 Trinity Place, Greenville PA 16125 with a reception to follow. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by September 18—email to nwpasynodelca@gmail.com or call Ellen at the Northwestern PA Synod Office at 814-589-7660.

PARISH ED NEWS

Rally Day will be held Sunday September 8th, 2019 in the Social Hall after church service.

Volunteers are needed to teach Sunday School. Please contact Jenn Rising at 724-465-7520.

Sign up for Adult Sunday School classes will be at the back of the Nave. This will assist in ordering books for the class.

Volunteers needed to help organize Sunday School rooms.

A Note about the Prayer List and Military List ---- Please check the Prayer List. If you know of anyone on the list who can be removed or needs to be added, please let the office know.

Also - The Military List should be checked. There probably have been changes to the people and it should be changed. Please let the office know of any changes. Thank you.

PRAY for those who suffer oppression, death, and tragedy. Please pray for those who travel. Please pray for those who serve in the armed forces and for their families. Pray for peace for all peoples.

Remember all those requesting prayer: Pastor Larry Houff (Karl Nagle), Bea Ruth, Elaine Shaffer (Becky Slade), Richard Malacarne (Nancy), Peter Broad (Tamie Blank), Bob Reifsteck (Beth Grafton), Helen Bush (Rich Bush), Fred Schrock (Darla Mechling), Bob Butchkoski (Darla Mechling), Walt Novak, Jr (Rich Lamberski), Ian Bingaman (Jenn Rising), Liz Lechner (Jenn Rising), Edward Chapman (Jim Chapman), Dirk Grafton, Isabel Bowers, Helen Myers (Paul Myers), Nancy (cousin-Lois Hoffman), Carol Guba, Veida Dahlin, Abby Bowser (June Stewart), Jim Muller (Dawn Seagren), Royce Walters (Kathy Huston), Rochelle Calvetti (the Calvettis), Jacqueline Davis (Fred & Jeannie Park), Judy Matsko (Betty Wingard), Kim Walls (Jenn Rising), Katrina Albright (Tamie Blank), Judee Conger (Rosemarie Waechter), Quinn Santini (Jenn Rising), Deb Johnson (Jenn Rising), Skip Nocco (brother of Loretta Piper), Heidi Good (Susan Belford), Bill Mechling (Darla Mechling), Lisa Vavro (Gretchen Barbor), Brady Hunker (Kristin Christofano), Elaine Park Davis (Fred & Jeannie Park), Leonard Black (Shirley Bush), Noelle Battick (Jim Chapman), Ronda Leasure (Diana Metzger), Janice & Rich Olsen (Sharon Jarvis), Ivan Kunkle (father of Jen Rising), Linda Kanyan (Karl Nagle & Linda Malin), Nelson Hill, Annah Hill (Janet Hill), Gene Hartzell (Kathy Gaylor), Guella Family (Calvetti's), Betty Nicolette (sister of Carol Barry).

For all those serving in the Military and those who have served, especially: Zachery Horner (serving in Bagdad), Maria Dinuzio, Mark Collins, Stephen Davis, Ssgt. Chad Beighley (nephew of Dory & Ken Campbell) now serving in Iraq, Matthew McEldowney (grandson of Richard & Shirley Bush), Corey Feretti, Franklin Feretti.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE HOME-BOUND AND MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES, KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Roberta Buchanan, Mardelle Fish, Wilmer Johnson, Ruth Nelson, Catherine Pike, Geraldine Shatzer, Mary Malin, Marietta (Mo) Foltz, Marie Campbell, Isabelle Bowers, Royce Walters, John Carloni, Helen Myers.

We mourn with the family of Pastor Arlene Schweitzer. Arlene's sister, Lee Ann Turner, passed away Tuesday, August 20. A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 14, at the Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana. Friends will be received at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM with the service immediately following. A luncheon will be held following the service at the church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Buckshaw

Roberta Ryan

Tracey McEldowney

Diane Howard

Alan Meyers

Benj McEldowney

Josh Widdowson

Ed Chapman

Jean Casaday

Kallen Snyder

Wayne Kmetz

Ross Nycum

Ron Anderson

Colin Carloni

Dan Heggenstaller

Karen Jones

Don Seagren

Rhett Snyder

Mack Kuhne

Aurora Blank

Lilliana Blank

Jacob Gill

Isaac Miller

Carol Guba

Jeannie Park

Kathy Shearer

Richard Thorell

Irene Wallaert

Marietta Foltz

Matt McEldowney

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

July 15, 2019

Gathered: 6:56 PM

Present: B Lockard, T Cogar, D Keith, B Gaylor, S Horner, K Balcerak, B Shively, R Bowersox

Devotions: Shirley Horner led us on a journey into the world of 'Who would you invite to dinner if you could invite anyone and it be accepted?'

05.13.19 Minutes. M/S Horner 2/K Balcerak Carried Unanimous

Financials M/Admin-Fin recommended and council approved to file for audit. 2/K Balcerak Carried Unanimous

Ways to reduce expenses were discussed and Admin/Fin Moved to discontinue renting parking spaces from the Frick Agency. After considerable discussion the motion was amended to add the phrase "as soon as practical". 2/S Horner Motion carried. Unanimous

There was also much discussions about the Director of Christian Education and Vacation Bible School Coordinator positions. A fair amount of that discussion centered around the historical fact that those roles were once voluntary. M/Admin-Fin that these positions no longer be paid. 2/K Balcerak. Motion passed 4 to 3. The change to voluntary DCE & VBS Coordinator will be effective 8/1/19.

There is an unquestionable and prevailing sentiment in Zion council that that there is a rapid disparity between budgeted and actual levels of giving. As this trend continues it is inevitable that more severe budget cuts. Long term the implications are even more foreboding .

Evangelism reports that Indiana light up night is November 22. Suggestion was made to invite people to stop in @ Zion and view the Nativity sets.

**Property: One LED light inoperative. Contractor contacted.
An elevator light is inoperative. Custodian believes that he can fix.
New carpeting is lifting some places
Dunkel Roofing is assessing/fixing slate roof**

NEW BUSINESS

**Moving between floors to prepare/accommodate Sunday School and Katie's Closet. Those moves are scheduled to occur July 16 and July 18. There will be a Yard Sale July 19.
Foosball and air hockey table are going to Lutheran Campus Center.**

Zion church has excess pianos. Vice President will consult with Worship and Music regarding the removal of some or all.

It is reported that the new bishop of NWPA Synod will be installed October probably in Greenville. Our very own Rachel Bowersox will be attending and involved.

A movie, Emmanuel, about the church shooting in Charleston, SC will be shown in the near to intermediate future. It will be open to other congregations and the community at large.

Adjournment 0842 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shively, Secretary

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 7, 2019

Members Present: Bob Gaylor, Beverly Swatsworth, Becky Slade, Dawn Seagren, Kim Blacerak, Kevin Huston, Don Seagren, Barb Lockard, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Pastor Sarah Aasheim (Absent: Bob Shively)

Topics Discussed:

- 1. Financials were reviewed and approved to submit to Council. Formal recommendations to council:**
 - A. The current 2019 Financials show a deficit of \$16,097.00**
 - B. Giving through July 31, 2019 is \$ 11,411 below our expected 2019 budget amount.**
 - C. Current spending is also down, but if current giving trends continue, our 2019 deficit will be much greater than the spending deficit approved by the congregation at the Annual meeting.**
- 2. Current Balance in our Mission Endowment fund is \$100,932.92**
- 3. Current Balance in our Capital Improvement Fund is \$45,411.19**
 - A. The air conditioning project has been completed and paid for.**
 - B. The new LED Lighting in the nave has been completed and paid for.**
 - C. We have contracted for new carpeting for the third floor (New Sunday School area)**
 - D. The committee voted to recommend to council that all Capital Improvement Funds currently in the ELCA Mission Endowment fund, be re-invested into Zion's S&T Savings account, which is offering a higher interest rate.**
- 4. Current Balance in our ZARP Fund is \$ 133,139.43**
 - A. Phase II (Social Hall) is awaiting a contractor walk through to be completed so that formal bids can be submitted to council for approval to begin the work.**
 - B. The committee voted to recommend to council that all ZARP funds currently in the ELCA Mission Endowment fund, be re-invested in Zion's S&T savings account, which is offering a higher interest rate.**
- 5. Emergency keys were distributed. These keys open the Church Street and Handicapped parking lot doors in case of power failure (which would cause the new fob system to be inoperable).**
- 6. The committee discussed its concern over sagging weekly worship attendance (especially on Sundays). The committee discussed several options for addressing the issue, but did not reach a consensus.**
- 7. The committee reviewed some preliminary 2020 budget issues in preparation for receiving committee spending request in September.**
 - A. The committee is anticipating a larger budget deficit in 2020 than 2019 unless additional budget savings can be made OR increased income can be found. Ideas for both these options were discussed without resolution.**
- 8. The property committee reported that it was working on a savings plan for Zion's utility (Electric and Gas) expenses for 2020 through securing fixed rate contracts. Rates will be presented to Council on August 12, 2019 for their consideration.**

The committee's next meeting: Wednesday September 4, 2019

**Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Huston**

Parish Education Minutes August 14, 2019

1. Discuss DCE duties

Cradle Roll - Coordinate with Kimberly Balcerak for SPLASH

Follow up with Sunday School and VBS

First Communion Classes - Pastor Tedd Cogar said Zion no longer has First Holy Communion Classes

Catechism classes - will be conducted as student begin 7th grade finish October of 10th grade year. Confirmation Reformation Sunday Tamie Blank stated that she would reach out to Dory Campbell regarding teaching catechism Sunday School Teachers are needed. Please volunteer.

Phone tree - if a need arises to cancel Sunday School utilize a phone tree to contact families.

Sunday School - Spark House - Digital Pre-K through adult

Organizing WELCA - suggested to talk with Trudy Taylor as she organizes WELCA at Luther Chapel - trudyataylor@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School - discussed two possible books for Fall:

1. **A House United - How the Church Can Save the World** by Allen Hilton

2. **Love without Limits - Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions** by Jacqueline A. Bussie

3. During the Lenten season study of Esther - followed by an opportunity to travel to Lancaster to see the production of Esther.

Intergenerational events -

Possibilities/ suggestions:

Rally Day

Reformation

Immanuel 9

Moving Night

Caroling [around town, housing development, nursing homes, etc]

Outing to Heinz Hall - etc

Parish Education Minutes August 14, 2019

2. Council's decision on VBS

Pastor Tedd Cogar - said that council had not rendered a decision regarding VBS. He suggested to keep contacting council in an effort to get them to make a decision.

3. Good of the order

Thrivent Members - Pastor Tedd Cogar asked to create a list of Thrivent members within the congregation. A Thrivent Action team may request \$250.00 to use for an event to purchase supplies then do a report after the event.

Contact Rik Wissinger to discuss having 4 possible community dinners a year using the funds for the church, youth group trip, etc.

Parish Education will meet @ 6 P.M.

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Recreation & Fellowship Committee
Report to Council
August 6, 2019

Although the committee did not meet, we have kept in touch with each other via e-mail and conversation. The highlights are:

1. The Men's Outing to Yellow Creek State Park on Saturday, July 6, 2019, went well, but only six attended. Therefore, we will plan something in-house or more local next year.
2. After much anticipation, we are looking forward to the start of social hall renovation in the foreseeable future. Nothing will be planned to take place in the social hall until we have a more definite idea of completion of the work.
3. A Ladies' Event will be planned for the social hall after renovation is completed.
4. The Advent Soup Luncheons will not take place this year, but they will resume for Lent. Several factors contributed to this decision; unknown availability of the social hall, other kitchen events will take place (annual meeting/dinner, Nativity display and goodies to be prepared, prep for the Build-your-own-Burger Bash in September, the busy Christmas season, and the kitchen crew is tired....) Also, the committee unanimously agreed that proceeds from soup luncheons can be designated for church expenses, rather than the food pantry, since the pantry is currently solvent.
5. Re: 2020 budget: The committee agrees that we can tighten our spending a great deal, which will also mean that social events will be centered in-house and primarily with pot-luck food. A bare-bones budget request is being constructed and will be submitted.
6. We will continue to discuss ways to raise funds for the good of the church.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen Gaylor
Recreation & Fellowship

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 30, 2019

Members Present: Jerry Ruffner, Dawn Seagren, Kevin Huston, Don Seagren

Old Business:

1. Church Roof Repair: Dunkel Roofing has completed the repairs on the roof.
2. No word on when Crane will return for follow up on the choir loft stained glass window repair.
3. Committee plans to complete replacing the ceiling tiles in Church Street entrance
4. Weather has continued to delay outside window re-caulk and painting. Hopefully, better weather will allow this work to begin in July.
5. The air conditioning installation was completed on July 18th.
6. Crane will be contacted to do patchwork on the south end of the building to prevent leaks that have occurred in the kitchen.

Still waiting for On-Line refrigeration to re-align the freezer door.

New Projects:

1. William Kuzneski from Smith Utility Group discussed our utilities usage and how the congregation will be able to take advantage of Smith for more competitive utility rates. We reviewed the process for establishing a fixed rate (we are currently on a variable rate program for both gas and electric) for our utility costs. This will allow us to better plan for budget our utility expenses for 2020. Since the rates are traded as commodities, we will receive the current rates on August 12th in time for council to review and decide whether or not to proceed.
2. A request for carpeting on the third floor (new Sunday school location). The committee will contact Affordable Interiors for a quote.
3. Ryan Locksmith made additional keys for the loft and kitchen storage room.
4. Jody Dumm was in to replace the blower motor on the social hall south air conditioner unit.
5. Indiana Fire was in to replace the Church Street door key for their emergency access.
6. Elevator Maintenance was performed on July 16th.
7. Affordable Interiors was in on July 18th to repair lifting carpet in the Nave.
8. On July 23rd Don Ross (Elevator Inspector) was in for the six-month elevator inspection. We passed.
9. Pardee will be installing

The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Formal recommendations to council:

Council to review and act on contracting our utilities through Smith Utility Group at a fixed rate, if that fixed rate provides the congregation with cost savings for 2020.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 20, 2019

Members Present: Jerry Ruffner, Dawn Seagren, Kevin Huston, Don Seagren, Dave Keith

Old Business:

1. The ceiling tiles in Church Street entrance will be replaced prior to September 1st
2. Crane has been working on the patchwork at the south end of the building to prevent leaks that have occurred in the kitchen.
3. On-Line refrigeration was in to inspect the misaligned freezer door. Either the door or the freezer will be replaced pending manufacturer's decision.
4. New utility contracts were signed on August 9th for our gas and electrical service. The new rates will save the congregation \$1,300 in 2020, based on our current usage.

Carpeting on the third floor (new Sunday School location) and additional tile has been installed in preparation for the 2019-20 Sunday School session.

New Business:

1. Building fire extinguishers were inspected on August 19th. Several units found to be deficient are being upgraded to current code and all will be completed this week. We received loaner units while this work is being completed.
2. A door in the Preschool is rubbing at the top jamb. Jerry will repair.

The committee reviewed a preliminary budget for 2020. We will finalize the committee's expense requests prior to the October meeting.

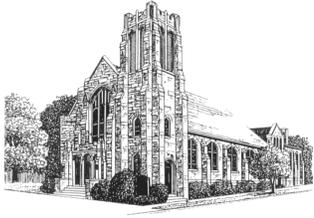
The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Formal recommendations to council:

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 9:30 Liturgy	2 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 6-Girl Scouts	4 10-Bible Study 4:30-Adm/Finance	5	6 Zion office closed	7 5:30 Liturgy
8 9:30 Liturgy Choir Practice Begins RALLY DAY	9 9-Food Pantry 1-Social Ministry 6:30-Council (No Katie's Closet)	10 6-Girl Scouts	11 10-Bible Study 6-Parish Ed & VBS	12	13 Zion office closed	13 5:30 Liturgy
15 9:30 Liturgy Choir Practice	16 9-Katie's Closet 6:30-Girl Scouts	17 6-Girl Scouts	18 10-Bible Study	19	20 Zion office closed	21 5:30 Liturgy
22 9:30 Liturgy Choir Practice ▼	23 9-Food Pantry & Katie's Closet 4-Katie's Closet	24 6-Girl Scouts	25 Newsletter Mailed 10-Bible Study	26	27 Zion office Closed	28 5:30 Liturgy
29 9:30 Liturgy Choir Practice	30 9-Katie's Closet 7-Worship & Music					31 NA meets every Sunday in the Social Hall

Date	Lay Reader	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
Sept 7/8	5:30-Jim Chapman 9:30-Diana Metzger		Sat AM-Sharon O'Keiff PM-Shirley Horner 9:30-Becky Slade	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissinger 9:30-Don & Dawn Seagren	5:30-Kevin Huston 9:30-Kevin Huston	Bob & Kathy Gaylor
Sept 14/15	5:30-Karen Gresh 9:30-Darla Mechling		Sat AM&PM-Louise Buchanan 9:30-Diana Metzger	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Steve Higgins, Charles McCreary	5:30- 9:30-Beth Grafton	Dave Keith, Bob Shively
Sept 21/22	5:30-Josh Widdowson 9:30-Christoph Maier		Sat AM&PM-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Sue Dickson	5:30-Walt & Bev Cikowski 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger, Pernel Bowersox	5:30-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Beth Grafton	Shirley Horner
Sept 28/29	5:30-Jerry Ruffner 9:30-Dawn Seagren		Sat AM-Sue Dickson PM-Shirley Horner 9:30-Darla Mechling	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Jim Calhoun, Jim Slade	5:30-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Jenn Rising	Bob Shively, Shirley Horner
	Susan Fello 724-422-1333		Kathy Huston 724-422-1959	5:30 Dave Malin 724-349-3996 10:00 Dave Keith 349-4583 Pernel Boxwersox 349-5639	Kim Balcerak 724-388-2341	



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Date Mailed: August 28, 2019

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CHANGE SERVICE
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ZION STAFF

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 Administrative Assistant Beverly Swatsworth
 Sexton Jerry Ruffner
 Director of Music Christine Clewell

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ZION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Gaylor (VChair)
 Barb Lockard (Treas)
 Anna Grafton (Fin Sec)
 Kim Balcerak (Asst Fin Sec)
 Bob Shively (Sec)
 David Keith
 Diana Metzger
 Kathy Gaylor
 Kevin Huston
 Rachel Bowersox
 Shirley Horner

NEXT NEWSLETTER MAILED — September 25, 2019; Deadline: September 13, 2019

THERE IS NOW A LINK ON THE ZION WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE TRUMPET