



The ECHO

Hewlett-Packard
Company

Volume 2019, Issue 2
February 2019

MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

4065 Mt. Zion Rd. Lucas, Ohio 44843 419-892-2023

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A Year of Discipleship

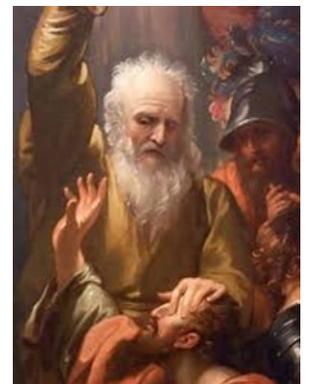
On January 18 and 19, I attended a seminarians retreat. Now to be quite honest with you all, I was not “excited” to attend this retreat thinking it was going to be something that was meaningless and a waste of my time. I was wrong, well mostly, and I needed to ask forgiveness for my attitude.



The training was called Ananias Training and the first thing we were to do was look at Acts 9:10:19 and write down the word or phrase that stands out to you in the passage (I am providing it below and am asking you do the same thing before continuing): ¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and

go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

So What did you see? I have read this passage many times before but was taken back by several things. First was the Lord’s commands: “**Rise and go**”. The Lord came to Ananias and told him to do something unexpected. He was to go and lay hands on Saul, the man who was out to kill Christians. God often asks us to do things unexpected doesn’t He. Unfortunately, my response is similar to Ananias initial response which is the second thing I noticed. My paraphrase of Ananias response: *Lord, do you really know what you are asking me to do, I mean this Saul guy is not a good man, he wants to imprison us.* Mine sounds more like, “Lord, I am busy doing other things for you so I will pass”, or “Lord, that is out of my comfort zone so no thanks”. Does it sound familiar...kind of like Moses’ excuses. But, look how the Lord responds:



Jan 10, 2019

Attendance: Nate Arnold, Audrey Cook, David Culler, Martha Dourson, Mary Fowler, Ralph Hall, Pastor Eric Steward.

Pastor Eric opened the meeting with devotions on Article 2 of the Apostle's Creed.

Minutes were handed out. Motion to accept minutes made by Ralph, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the month of December receipts of \$10,596.80 expenses of \$7,644.31. We were +2,952.49 for the month and +687.36 for the year. There will be a couple of further expenses due to the council's approval previously to put \$2,500 annually from the general operating fund into the Capital Improvement Fund and also \$2,500 from the Investment Portfolio. The same for the Contingency Fund with an amount of \$500 from the general operating fund.

Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Ralph, seconded by Nate. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT - December

Pastor Eric gave his report.

Home Communion – 3

Home Visits: 3

Nursing Home Visits - 2

Hospital Visits: 0

Sermon's preached: 8

Children's Sermons: 5

Special services: 4 (Wed. Advent w/St. Michael and also Christmas Eve service)

Administrative – Sunday and Wed. prep, phone visits, e-mail

Consultation w/parishioner: 0

Adult Sunday School – 5

Catechism: 2

Wed. Bible Study @Mt. Zion: 2

Church Council – 1

Food pantry: 1

LAMA: 1

School Sporting events: 3

Youth Shopping: 1

Congregational meeting set for Jan. 27th

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property: Nate suggested that we organize the cleanup of the church. Set things outside and ask if anyone wants them, if not they will be pitched or donated. We should set a parameter for how long it has been since we used something as the basis for whether or not to keep it.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued to work on mission statement and visioning. Suggestions were:

Mission Statement- To know our Lord Jesus and make him known.

Vision Statement – Believing Christ calls us to serve.

The council will think about these and discuss again next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The budget for 2019 was presented to the council. 2.5% increase in salaries. Pastor Eric said he did not want and would not accept a raise.

Ralph made a motion that we create an Audio Visual Tech position and that is be compensated at \$150/month. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Council recommends that we hire Eric until he completes his degree, instead of giving him 1 year contracts. At the completion of his degree we would go through the call process.

Audrey - 1st Ralph – 2nd. Motion carried

We decided to create a pictorial church directory which can be done through church windows. Each person that desires their picture to be included can submit by e-mail by March 1st.

Martha would appreciate any suggestions for fellowship events for the coming year. LAMA voted to help with a community VBS, which will be chaired by Bill & Marilyn McFarland.

Motion to adjourn by Nate.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Cook, Council Secretary

Included In Our Prayers Today Are:

Members: Janet Grover, Grace Kintz, Lucille Maglott, Ethel Oaklief, Al and Mary Fowler, Joannie Smith, and Bill Grubaugh. Family and others: Mark Alt (Uncle of Kathy Grover), Patricia Dourson (Mother of Member), Darell Harless, Tom Lyons, Rev. Sanford Mitchell (Retired Pastor, Trinity – Ashland), Richard Orewiler, Sara Schwendeman, Jameson Taylor (Son-in-Law of Bill and Jan Grubaugh), Kay Zgela, Diane Seifert, and Avalyn Stepp.

Mary Arnsberger/Ernsberger

Yes, I was the very first burial in the Mt Zion Cemetery. It was in September 1823. I had just given birth to my son Solomon. He survived, but I didn't. Many times women who lived in my era didn't survive childbirth; there wasn't always a doctor close if there were problems, and sometimes the problems were more than a country doctor could heal.

I was born Mary Smith in 1784, in Maryland, like many of the others buried here. Our Maryland families traveled west for various reasons and settled in Richland County. I married my husband, John Ernsberger, in 1801 while we still lived in Maryland, where 6 of our children were born and baptized in the Lutheran faith. Margaret, Elias, Henry, John, Mary Ann and George. The next four, Susanna, Elizabeth, Catherine and Solomon were all born in Ohio, and we had settled here by 1820.

I lived long enough to see my oldest child Margaret marry Simon Archer here in 1822. What I didn't know was that my son Elias would marry another Maryland native, Sarah Culler, whose family also settled here and helped to start the church you now see setting across the road. Of course in my time, the church stood very close to where I am buried. Elias and Sarah would have 10 children, and the youngest would become a Son of Mt Zion, Reverend Cyrus Simon Ernsberger. How proud I would have been! He attended Wittenberg College along with two other Mt Zion boys, Jacob Henry Culler and Elias S. Shanibarger, who also became Sons of Mt Zion.

Though I lived just 39 years, much activity took place in my time. The Good Lord led me and my family here and sustained us as we struggled and rejoiced in the events of our daily lives. He encouraged us to build this church, just as He encourages you to serve wherever and however that may be.

There's always hope – remember, Moses was a basket case!

I don't know about you, but there are times that I fight hard to believe there is sanity in this world, that the number of people who truly love and care about others and are filled with compassion, that believe in a loving God who, among other things, is our moral compass, is dwindling every day. More than once I have thought, "why does this matter?" or "who cares?" Somehow I think I am not alone.

One thing that adds to this thinking is the fast pace of change in our world today. We can barely keep up with technology. News from all over the world bombards us every day. We all have our own personal challenges or know someone that is facing physical, emotional, or financial issues. Aren't Christians supposed to live a life of peace?

Anxiety and feelings of hopelessness are not sins; they are emotions that can lead to sinful behavior. Max Lucado, a well-known inspirational author, advocates a technique that leads to God's wonderful promise of peace that surpasses all understanding, and that will guard our hearts and minds: **Celebrate** God's goodness (that is, Rejoice in the Lord!); **Ask** God for help (pray!); **Leave** your concerns with him (be grateful!); **Meditate** on good things (think about what you are thinking about!). An easy way to remember this: Celebrate; Ask; Leave; Meditate. **CALM**

We as Christians battle anxiety just like everyone else, but we have a choice. We have Christ to cling to, and if we abide in him (our choice) we bear fruit. This is what I think sets Christians apart. Let's use the "CALM" tools to make this choice, to keep us steady, to not only be filled with hope but to wear it! By clothing ourselves in God's providence, by choosing to abide in Jesus, we choose not to be overcome by life's problems.

May God's Peace and Blessings be with you this New Year!

Martha Dourson, Council President

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BIBLE STUDY

Take a trip through 1, 2, & 3 John on Wednesdays at Mt Zion for the month of February. Social hour begins at 6:30 pm with the study starting at 6:45 pm. This is a partnership with St Michael of Mifflin.

During the month of February, you are encouraged to greet and pray for these members and friends of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Tina Steward | 12 | Thomas Boggs |
| 4 | Julia Ferrell | 17 | Xavier Hall |
| 6 | Shelby Grover | 17 | Ralph Hall |
| 8 | Beth Johnson | 18 | Lillian Fraizer |
| 8 | Allyson Cook | 20 | Michael Dourson |
| 9 | Kathleen Steward | 23 | Benjamin Graham |
| 11 | Melvin McKenna Jr. | 23 | Marilyn Zody |
| | | 28 | Kim Smollen |



No February Anniversaries

During the month of February, we THANK these members who are offering their service to the church in various ways:

Lector

- 3 Martha Dourson
- 10 Marie McKenna
- 17 Ralph Hall
- 24 Tim Cooper

Acolyte

- Bobby Grover
- Mica McKenna
- Keegan Arnold
- Lilly Fraizer

Fellowship Time

- Marie McKenna
- Freda Steward
- Mary Tomlinson
- Audrey Cook

Ushers

The McKenna Family

Communion

Ralph Hall

Offering Counters

Audrey Cook & Nate Arnold

Altar Guild

Jackie Arnold & Audrey Cook



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 <i>Pastor in Office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 2 |
| 3 | 4 <i>Karen in office</i> | 5 <i>Pastor in office 11-4; Class 5-7 Karen in office</i> | 6 <i>Pastor in office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 7 <i>Pastor in office 10-5 Elaine in office</i> | 8 <i>Pastor in Office 10-1; Class 2-5 LAFP Delivery</i> | 9 <i>LAFP Distribution</i> |
| 10 <i>Catechism 6-8</i> | 11 <i>Karen in office</i> | 12 <i>Pastor in office 11-4; Class 5-7 Karen in office</i> | 13 <i>Pastor in office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 14 <i>Pastor in office 10-5 Elaine in office</i> | 15 <i>Pastor in Office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 16 |
| 17 | 18 <i>Karen in office</i> | 19 <i>Pastor in office 11-4; Class 5-7 Karen in office</i> | 20 <i>Pastor in office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 21 <i>Pastor in office 10-5 Elaine in office</i> | 22 <i>Pastor in Office 10-1; Class 2-5 LAFP Delivery</i> | 23 <i>LAFP Distribution</i> |
| 24 <i>Catechism 6-8</i> | 25 <i>Karen in office</i> | 26 <i>Pastor in office 11-4; Class 5-7 Karen in office</i> | 27 <i>Pastor in office 10-1; Class 2-5</i> | 28 <i>Pastor in office 10-5 Elaine in office</i> | | |

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
4065 Mt. Zion Road
Lucas, OH 44843



BEING A GOOD LISTENER

Everyone has a story to tell, and people want to tell that story before they are willing to listen to anything you have to say. Here are some tips on how to be a good listener:

1. **Pray:** take a moment to remind yourself you are in the presence of God and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
2. **Be Fully Present:** turn off your electronic devices or at the very least put them away so that you show you are fully present with the person in front of you.
3. **Listen to every word and be a reflective listener:** Think like a mirror, summarize what the person shared ("What I heard you say was....")
4. **Ask clarifying questions:** "Can you tell me more about....?; What happened next?; Why do you think...?"
5. **Do not give in to temptaion:** to advise, teach, counsel or in any other way don the "fix-it" hat. We listen and respond in order to guide them in discovering for themselves how God is present in their life.
6. **Self-Disclosure – rare and brief:** Do not let the focus come on you, keep it on the other. If you do share something about yourself, ask a question to return focus to them.
7. **Know when to refer out:** If it seems something over your head or beyond your capabilities, refer them to the pastor or other Christians who may have more information in that area.