



# ZION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DAUPHIN PA 17018

**April 2024**

**Newsletter**

**WORSHIP: 10:15 am**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am**

**Easter Sunday, March 31:**



**Sunrise Service & light breakfast**  
outdoors at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery,  
Dauphin  
6:45 a.m.

**Easter Sunday Festival Worship Service, 10:15 a.m.**

## *Reflections*

*By Pastor Ludwig*

How would you describe Zion Lutheran Church of Dauphin, PA, to someone who knows nothing about you? What descriptors would you use? Friendly? Caring? Community-minded?



In answering the questions above, you have begun to talk about Zion’s “culture.” Culture, as used in its sociological meaning, is the “way of life” of a particular group or organization: their values, beliefs, norms, etc. In this sense, all groups have a distinctive culture. It is what makes you, well, you.

When I began my ministry at First Lutheran in Ellicott City, MD, I quickly learned that the culture there needed attention. It was a church, as I described it, “pitched in a minor key,” which is to say that there were lots of negative things going on. Two illustrations to prove the point: 1. The church was empty in less than 5 minutes after worship. There were no groups standing around sharing news or updates; there was no coffee time for folks to catch-up with one another. Oh, there were “parking lot” committee meetings (every church has those) but like most such meetings, the participants were complaining about something or other and most of it centered around this new pastor they had called. And 2. The first Council Meeting I attended lasted until 1:45 a.m. You read that right – A.M.! Three people left the meeting at various points in the evening, slamming both their hands on the table as they left and the door. And these were the leaders entrusted with the care, nurture, and ministry of the Gospel in that community!

When I got home, weary and wondering why God had chosen to call me to such a place, the very first thing I said to Stella was “we have to get folks to talk to one another differently.” In other words, we had to change the negative culture of the church. Three years later, we had a start, but I will tell you those were the roughest three years of my 50 years in ministry.

It is hard to change the culture of an organization. It takes vision, patience, trust, stamina, a pinch of stubbornness, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I stayed 20 more years, so we managed to turn things around, but it was a slow and deliberate process. As I joked along the way, “I was 6’2” and had hair when I started and now look at me!” That’s a bit of an exaggeration, but you get the point.

So, why do I share this now? Well, I’ve been thinking a lot about Zion’s opportunities and challenges in this near future. You are in the process of calling a new pastor to come and preach the Gospel, care for you, and help discern where the Holy Spirit is leading. That new pastor will need to understand something of your “culture” to be able to lead effectively. You will need to be open to where there are places the culture may need to change. I’m not being critical here, nor am I pointing to anything specific. Just know that staying “status quo” won’t work anymore in church life. A church either grows and changes with that growth, or it declines. It is a choice.

I’m too new to suggest where those changes should occur. But there will need to be some, I guarantee you. My prayer is that you are open to the leadership of your new pastor and honest about your ministry. Then, let the Holy Spirit guide all of you to new, vibrant, and affirming ministry in service to the Gospel. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

## From Zion's Resident Poet

### Walking With Jesus

He walked on earth this perfect man, yet  
we know he sometimes felt rejections  
and pain.



Yet there must have been times, when he laughed and  
smiled, as he talked with his disciples, or held a child.

They must have seen miracles that we will never know, but  
that's not the reason they loved him so.

He could understand how they felt inside. Even things that  
with friends you don't confide.

Did they kid each other as they walked along? Maybe they  
sometimes sang a song.

They surely would miss him when he went away, but in their  
hearts, he would always stay.

*Jean E. Doren*

## Meals on Wheels Schedule for Zion



April 22-26

May 20-24

## Senior Food Box Distribution

March was Zion's first month of distributing Senior Food  
Boxes. We served 14 seniors and signed up more for April's  
distribution. I would like to thank the Central PA Food Bank  
for patterning with us, and those at Zion who have helped to  
get seniors signed up and those who helped with distribution.

*Melanie Mimmall*

## Easter Egg Making

As I write this article on Friday, March 15, we have been making eggs the past six weeks and only have two more weeks left for egg making. Easter egg making and sales continue to go well. The total



amount of eggs made to date is 12,025. We are so blessed and thankful for all the



volunteers who show up throughout the day. We are averaging around 35 - 40 volunteers every Monday for the past few weeks. I want to thank all the businesses who are selling our Easter eggs along with the church members who are selling eggs at their work. Included here are a few pictures that were taken during our egg making.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

John & Melanie Mimmall – 4/2  
Milton & Dianna McCommons – 4/6  
John & Margaret Reichard – 4/30  
Mike & Tracey Sudia – 4/30



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Nick Bechtel – 4/5  
Zachary Tobin – 4/5  
Raymond Dively – 4/7  
Catherine Smith – 4/9  
Dave Szostek – 4/10  
Sandy Henry – 4/13

Susan Radel – 4/16  
Jane Fisher – 4/19  
Judy King – 4/19  
Judy Szostek – 4/19  
Hannah Damgaard – 4/21  
Josie Wachter – 4/30

## Update from Church Council



**This monthly update from Council shares highlights of the most recent Council meeting to keep the congregation informed of things happening around Zion Church.**

The March meeting of Church Council was held March 12, 2024.

Council members (listed on page 8) may be approached at any time with comments or concerns regarding church operations. Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation and are generally held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month, except July. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9.

The minutes of monthly council meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**In the pulpit:** Interim Pastor Glenn Ludwig has agreed to extend as our Interim pastor through May.

**In the future:** Council will be investigating re-sealing and re-striping the parking lot later this year.

**On Council’s “want list”:** As a congregation we are in need of and will benefit from stronger church committees, with dedicated leadership. We should all prayerfully consider the talents we have been given and where they can best be employed in the operation of the church.

**Video upgrade:** New and upgraded audio and video equipment has been installed in memory of Ron Wesner, through the generosity of his family. The new equipment will permit much better-quality broadcasts of our weekly services on FaceBook.

**Financial Reports:** Income/Expenses: January and February, 2024 and Year-to-Date

	January	February	Year 2024
Receipts	\$15,247.70	\$15,432.86	\$30,680.56
Less: Expenditures	\$22,343.60	\$11,288.75	\$33,632.35
Excess or (Deficit) - Receipts Over Expenses	(\$7,095.90)	\$4,144.11	(\$2,951.79)

Total Funds:           \$ 239,499.55  
 Obligated Funds:       \$ 97,175.19  
 Available Funds:       \$ 142,324.30

## Calendar

### Church Sponsored Meetings and Events



Thursday, Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 7: Gleaners, 12– pm

Tuesday, April 9: Church Council, 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 18: Sr. Food Distribution, 11 am – 2 pm

Sunday, April 28: “Ray Lively Award”, 10:15 am

Wed. April 24: Isaiah 61 Harrisburg Homeless Feed

3:00 pm Food Prep, 6:00 pm depart for Harrisburg

### Community Use of the Church Building

Thursdays: Girl Scout Troop 11338, 6-8 pm

Sundays (7, 21): Scout Troop 11339, 2-5 pm

Tuesdays (9, 23): Girl Scout Troop 11516, 6-8 pm

Thursday, April 18: Lions Club, 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 25: Historical Society, 6 pm

Tuesday, April 30: Blood Drive, 12–7 pm

## Council Members & Financial Officers

Mick McCommons, President

Kevin Musselman, VP

Tom Scott, Secretary

Doug Bonsall

Tammy Calhoun

Judy Harner

John Mimmall

Monica Wesner

Susan Wright

Floyd Bechtel, Treasurer



Sonia Evans, Asst. Treasurer  
Dee Wesner, Financial Sec