



ZION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DAUPHIN PA 17018

May 2024

Newsletter

WORSHIP: 10:15 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RAY!

A celebration, including a beautiful cake, was held on April 7 for Ray Dively's 98th birthday.



Reflections

By Pastor Ludwig

How we view life speaks volumes about our value system, about what's important to us. This value system, in turn, affects how we view and treat others, how we live our lives and even what meaning we give to life.



With me so far?

It seems to me that there are two ways to view life on this planet and, depending upon which we choose or are taught, our lives reflect that view in how we live (think our morals) and how we deal with others (think our ethics).

So, is life for you: **1) Transactional**, or **2) Relational**? Let's unpack these by examining what each view means and how that view affects how we live. A short course in philosophy is in order, but one that has serious consequences.

To view life as **transactional** means we enter into all of life with a mindset of competition. Everything, and I mean everything, is about winning or losing. There is an “If—Then” component to every action. If I do this, then this will happen. This is conditional language, the language of consequences, both good and bad. The motivator for action is really the consequence or reward. “If I study hard, then I’ll get good grades.” “If I get good grades, then I’ll get into a good school.” “If I get into a good school . . .” (you can run that train of thought out on your own).

This transactional view of life is how the world often and normally works. At the center of life is the “self” and every relationship, action, thought even is processed through a “what’s in it for me” lens. It affects how we not only view our neighbor (competitor for goods and services), and how we relate to them, but also how we define who our neighbor is. Centered around self, the circle outward is not very large, so we can’t see the foreigner as a neighbor with whom we can relate, but as the one to fear because he/she may beat us in the transactions that life becomes. In a sense, all personal encounters become negotiations with the end result being one of us will win and one will lose.

The other way to view, and to live, life is **relational**. In this view, it is not about winners and losers because it’s not about “us” at all. “Love your neighbor because she/he is like you,” said one of the great teachers of the world. Your neighbor has the same needs, the same fears, the same basic yearnings as you have, so we love them (Jesus never said that we have to like them, necessarily), because we see ourselves in them.

Relational living leads us to care about the other not for what they can give us and not because they are our competitors for the world’s scarce resources, but because they are our neighbors God has given us to love and care for. Therefore, we are free to live generous lives, not the guarded, often fearful lives, of transactionalism.

Relational living also speaks to how we view this earth of ours. Is it ours to use for our benefits and pleasures? Or is it a sacred trust we seek to preserve for

the generations to come? How do we live in relationship to the good creation of our God?

Which view you take in life often depends on your upbringing and those who influenced/guided you. Raised in competition, encouraged to always seek to “win” in all relationships, and told that the most important thing in life is yourself, you would naturally take on this transactional ethic, always seeking to win in every encounter.

But if somewhere along life’s paths, you encountered a relational person who taught and demonstrated that life is really about healthy relationships which involve trust, honesty, integrity, cooperation, and service toward the other, the choices you would make about how to live your life would be unselfish and generous. Life, in all its components, would be lived in gratitude.

So, the question becomes – what are we teaching, showing, demonstrating, and modeling for the next generation? I’ll let you think about that for a while.

Meals on Wheels
Schedule for Zion



May 20-24

June 17-21

From Zion's Resident Poet

Disciples knew everything depended on Peter

The disciples saw Jesus rise into the sky,
Beyond the clouds, there were no good-byes.

They looked at Peter, and he knew,
Now everything depends on you.

He was a rough, outspoken man,
Who Jesus would sometimes reprimand.

He was their rock, his heart was true,
They knew that Peter would see them through.

The Holy Spirit to Peter would come,
He'd boldly preach to everyone.

He would preach the gospel from town to town,
No beatings or prisons would keep him down.

Jesus knew Peter would be the one,
To hold things together when he was gone.

Peter held them together, this little band,
Until they spread the gospel throughout the land.

On earth he would be Jesus' right-hand-man,
This once rough, outspoken fisherman.

Jean E. Doren

Easter Egg Making

Our Easter Egg making has come to an end. We had eight weeks of hard work, great fellowship and wonderful meals for lunch. During these eight weeks, we



were truly blessed with the number of volunteers who turned out to help with the egg making. The total egg count for this year is 16,044. We couldn't have done this without our amazing volunteers who

showed up every Monday to help. What great team work! I would like to personally thank Tom Scott for mixing all the batches of eggs, Diane McCommon for melting the chocolate for the eggs, Floyd Bechtel for keeping up with all the dishes and Deb Borelli for being responsible for putting all the orders together. I also



would like to thank all the men and women who showed up every Monday to roll and weigh the eggs, coat the eggs, patch the eggs, label and bag the eggs.



A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made lunches and desserts for the egg making crew.

This is our biggest fundraiser. As soon as all the income is collected and expenses are calculated, we will provide an update on our Easter egg making profit for this year.



Many thanks to Dave Foran – Philadelphia Steaks and Hoagies, Eli – Dauphin Pizza Shop, Donna and Lee - Zimmerman’s Nuts and Candies, Sam - Ugo Mini Mart, Josh -True Value Hardware Store and Sonia Evans for selling many dozens of eggs at their businesses.

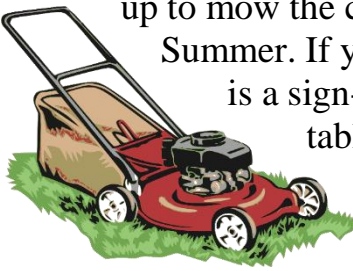
A special thanks to Monica Wesner and Judy King who sold eggs at their work and all the church members who bought eggs and also sold eggs to their friends to support the Gleaners!

Thanks again for all your help in making this a successful year. I really appreciate all of you!

Bonnie

Church Lawn Mowing

The property committee is looking for volunteers to sign up to mow the church lawn this Spring and Summer. If you are interested in helping, there is a sign-up sheet on the Special Stuff table located in the Narthex. The battery-operated lawn mower is located in the shed on the church grounds. If anyone hasn't



done the mowing before and would like to volunteer, please see Floyd Bechtel.

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 April meeting of Church Council was held 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 into May.

New Duties: Sue Wright was appointed as the Assistant to the Financial Secretary.

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

On Council's "want list": Our need for strong committee leadership and membership has been answered, at least in part, by Melanie Mimmall and the Outreach Committee. A separate report of their activities is presented in this Newsletter. Other areas still in search of reinvigorated committee activity include the Worship and Music Committee and the Property Committee.

- Volunteers to mow the grass are still needed. Please consider signing up. The church has a lawnmower. (see separate article)

- Money counters to count and track the weekly offering are needed. It is a quick and easy job; training is provided. Counting is done immediately after worship and generally takes less than 15 minutes.

Video upgrade: The upgraded video/audio installation is up and running! Check it out on our Facebook page.

Narcan availability and training: We have a supply of Narcan located in the defibrillator box on the wall in the Narthex. Narcan is used to counteract an accidental overdose of opiates, which are found in some prescription drugs. It is administered via a nasal inhaler, and simple to use. Tammy Calhoun recently gave the choir instructions on its use – it is easy and safe to use. She is available to provide additional training to anyone who wants it.

Financial Reports: Income/Expenses: January - March and Year-to-Date

	Jan/Feb	March	Year 2024
Receipts	\$30,680.56	\$23,033.08	\$53,713.64
Less: Expenditures	\$33,632.35	\$14,398.16	\$48,030.51
Excess or (Deficit) - Receipts Over Expenses	(\$2,951.79)	\$8,634.92	\$5,683.13

Total Funds: \$ 249,092.83

Obligated Funds: \$ 101,030.14

Available Funds: \$ 148,062.69

Council members 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, May 14.

Outreach Committee Report April 9, 2024

March Noisy offering (\$124.65) went to the Ray Dively account.

March Collection items went to the Gaudenzia House, a program that supports individuals with substance abuse.

Senior Food Box Program Zion received its first delivery of Senior food boxes from the Central PA Foodbank on 3/8, it will always be delivered on the 2nd Friday of the month. And our first distribution was on 3/21, that will also be on the third Thursday of the month. We started the program serving 14 seniors and are up to 18 seniors currently.

Family Game Night was held on 3/23. It was well attended with approximately 40 people in attendance. There were many different games to play; there was even a children's axe-throwing activity. We provided pizza, iced tea, and lemonade, while others brought snacks to share.

Ray Dively Jr. Award nomination forms went out to the congregation and the Dauphin community in March, they were mailed, or emailed to all the local churches, Meals on Wheels coordinator, Caitlin's Smiles, the Lion's Club,

Girl Scout and Boy scout troop leaders, and the Dauphin Home Association. Forms were also placed inside Zion. A recipient will be selected on Sunday 4/14, and the award will be presented during worship on 4/28.

Isaiah 61 feeding of the homeless occurred on March 27. Zion prepared and served hot chicken sandwiches with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and vegetables. A bagged lunch was also put together and handed out with a bottle of water.

Unique Entity ID (UEI number) Zion received a UEI number from the government, which is needed to apply for funding to help our Isiah 61 feeds. We have requested a \$5000 grant and will know in April if the request has been granted.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Russ & Cheryl Hornung – 5/20

Tom & Marcia Brown – 5/24

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Benjamin Meier – 5/2

Ian Hunter – 5/3

Kai Hunter – 5/8

Declan Musselman – 5/11

Abigail Hornung – 5/14

Bryce Tobin – 5/19

Wilbur Evans – 5/20

Terry Miller – 5/20

Barbara Waxman – 5/22

Melanie Mimmall – 5/27



Calendar



Church Sponsored Meetings and Events

Thursday, Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 5: Gleaners, 12 pm

Tuesday, May 14: Church Council, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 16: Sr. Food Distribution, 11 am – 2 pm

Wed. May 22: Isaiah 61 Harrisburg Homeless Feed

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

Community Use of the Church Building

Thursday, May 16: Lions Club, 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 18: May Fair 8:00 am Wednesday, May

22: Girl Scout Leaders, 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 23: Girl Scout Leaders, 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 23: Historical Society, 6 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