



# ZION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DAUPHIN PA 17018

June 2024

Newsletter

**WORSHIP: 9:15 am**

## Summer Worship

Zion goes to its summer worship schedule from Memorial Day Sunday (May 26<sup>th</sup>) through and including Labor Day Sunday (September 1<sup>st</sup>). The wrong starting time was listed in the last newsletter. The service begins at 9:15 a.m. and there are no Sunday School classes during this time. The usual coffee hour fellowship continues immediately following the conclusion of the worship service.

## *Reflections*

*By Pastor Ludwig*

Here is a parable for us to ponder as we reflect on what it means for us to live and work together as the Church:



The church is like the man who pulled into a gas station on the outskirts of town. As he filled his tank, he remarked to the attendant (this is obviously an old story), “I’ve just accepted a job in town. I’ve never been to this part of the country. What are people like around here?”

“What are people like where you came from?” the attendant asked.

“Well, not so nice,” the man replied. “In fact, they can be quite rude.”

The attendant shook his head. “Well, I’m afraid you’ll find the people in this town to be the same way.”

Just then another car pulled into the station. “Excuse me,” the driver called out. “I’m just moving into the area. It is nice here?”

“Was it nice where you came from?” the attendant inquired.

“Oh, yes! I came from a great place. The people were friendly, and I hated to leave.”

“Well, you’ll find the same to be true in this town,” informed the attendant.

“Thanks!” yelled the driver as he pulled away.

The first man, now irritated with the attendant's conflicting reports, asked the man to explain, "Well, which is it? What is this town really like?"

What do you think the answer was/is? Remember, this is a parable about the church.

There are two answers really: 1) You often get what you expect, and 2) We often get what we create.

Let me reflect on those answers for a moment. "You often get what you expect." If that's true, then when I encounter a new place, new people, a new church, what I bring with me colors what I will get. If I come with the expectation that more people are unfriendly or aloof, that is what I will experience, because (listen up here) I'm sure to find that here (or anywhere). But how about if what I expect is that the church will be friendly, open, courteous, and welcoming, then the first person who greets me warmly will reinforce that expectation.

Now, all of this doesn't relieve any of us from the responsibility of representing the Body of Christ in this place as the kind of place Jesus intends for us to be. Just because a person's expectations may be slightly less than positive, doesn't mean that they can't be altered or changed by the reality of what they face. But it can, and does, go both ways.

Now, for the second of the answers, which is more complicated: "We often get what we create." I believe any group has the power within itself to create their culture, climate, and conditions. We are not bound to the past. We don't have to repeat what has happened before. Today, this day and this time, is a new day to be the church of Christ.

So, what climate are we creating? What culture would we like to pass down to future generations of God's people? If it isn't what we want it to be (and this calls for brutal honesty), then how can we change it.

I'm not making any inferences or judgments here at all. But please realize, all of us have a stake in Zion's ministry and the kind of church we can become.

So, what kind of town (read "church") is this? It depends, does it not, on what we expect to find and what we are willing to help create?

Yep, it all depends. It's that old "U R" thing in the spelling of chURch.

## Zion News and Notes

**The last choir rehearsal** of the season is Thursday, May 30; this will be an abbreviated rehearsal before we retire to the Stoney Creek Inn down the street for fellowship, drinks, appetizers and/or dessert. The choir will be singing Sundays, June 2 & 9, July 14, August 11 and then return to the loft for weekly anthems on September 8. Volunteers are invited to provide special vocal and/or instrumental music selections for the prelude and offertory on summer Sundays; contact Doug Bonsall (717-921-1957) to select an open date.



**Spring cleaning** at the church office/Pastors office will take place mid-June. If you have placed any items to store in that area please label it so it is not discarded. Please contact Sue Wright or Tammy Calhoun with questions.

**Jean and Bob Doren** extend  
their thanks to everyone for

**Thank You**

the cards, visits and prayers during Jeans recovery from a fall. They are looking forward to when they can worship with their church community again.

### **Meals on Wheels Schedule for Zion**

June 17-21

July 15-19



### **From Zion's Resident Poet**

#### **Angels**

*(Jean dedicates this to Zion)*

There are some people who seem like angels  
That have wandered down to earth.  
They may look a lot like you or me  
And be of common birth.

They always seem to know  
The right things to say or do.  
A hand to help or a comforting word  
They always have for you.

I know I have some angels  
And I bet that you do, too.  
Look around, you're sure to find  
Your own angel or two.

*Jean E. Doren*

## Graduates

**Amber Smith** is graduating from CCA (Commonwealth Charter Academy) this year. She did it all in 3 years, originally supposed to graduate in 2025 from CCA. She is planning on taking a gap year in between high school and college. Though she does plan on going to college in the near future, most likely the 2025-2026 season. She has been accepted to multiple colleges, two of which being private schools, and one being a state school. She is a part of the NSHSS (National Honor Society for High Scholars) and is an ambassador through them, gaining scholarship opportunities as well as leadership opportunities through that.



**Wyatt Musselman** is graduating with distinguished honors from Central Dauphin High School in June, and he will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in the fall as an accounting major.

## Outreach Committee



Melanie Mimmall is the 2024 recipient of the **Ray Dively Award Jr. Award** presented on April 28.

**Our Senior Food Box program** continues to grow, we are serving 20 seniors currently monthly. We distribute the food boxes the third Thursday of the month. In the Fall the Outreach committee would like to do another food packing event. If you are interested in helping to organize this please talk with Melanie Mimmall.

By the generosity of the congregation, we collected \$146.93 for the **veterans**.

## **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 May meeting of Church Council was held May 14.

**In the pulpit:** With a sense of sadness we say “So long” (not good-bye or even farewell) to Pastor Glenn Ludwig, who has served so magnificently as our Interim Pastor since February. President McCommons is in regular contact with the Synod office in the hope of securing another interim pastor while the call process works itself out. In the meantime, our pastoral needs will be covered by weekly supply pastors. Pastor Ludwig left us with his observations of the ministry needs of the Dauphin/Middle Paxton community, and Zion’s potential role in meeting those needs.

**In the future:** In the coming months, based in part on Pastor Ludwig's observations, Council will be reviewing and evaluating the best way for our congregation to fulfill God's mission in our community. This will be a church-wide effort, and input will be welcome and solicited from everyone.

**On Council's "want list":** Although church committee work appears to be on the back burner during the summer, now is when we need to focus on renewed leadership and commitment to this important aspect of our congregational life. We are blessed that, somehow, everything always seems to get done. However, as evidenced by the success of our Outreach Committee and Hospitality Committee, more can be done better and easier when there is leadership and structure in place to get the job done.

The rains have come; the grass is growing; find a week when no one has volunteered, sign up and cut the grass! The church has a lawnmower.

Every week we collect an offering. Immediately after church, it is counted and accounted for. Although it may sound daunting if you have never tried it, it is a quick and easy job and training is provided. Counting is done immediately after worship and generally takes less than 15 minutes.

**Our Property:** Thanks to Floyd Bechtel our beautiful shrubbery is maintained, manicured, and thriving. Sam Wesner took responsibility for fixing the sinkhole in the rear corner of the parking lot. The hole has been filled and the area repaved. And, we have a new copier in the



Parish House. Those bulletins that magically appear every Sunday don't reproduce themselves!

- **Financial Reports:**

	Jan-Mar	April	Year 2024
Receipts	\$53,713.64	\$12,521.96	\$66,235.60
Less: Expenditures	\$48,030.51	\$11,419.13	\$58,449.64
Excess or (Deficit) - Receipts Over Expenses	\$ 5,683.13	\$ 1,103.83	\$ 6,785.96

Total Funds: \$ 251,136.03

Obligated Funds: \$ 102,238.42

Available Funds: \$ 148,897.61

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, June 11.

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Anna Gerhard – 6/2  
Floyd & Bonnie Bechtel – 6/6  
Dale & Beverly Seiders – 6/9  
David & Cathy Foran – 6/14  
John & Heather Meier – 6/14  
Jim & Jane Fisher – 6/20  
Mark & Barbara Waxman – 6/29

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Hornung – 6/5  
Bertie Dively – 6/6  
Jim Fisher – 6/10  
Marcia Brown – 6/15  
Eden Calhoun – 6/16  
Donna Strawser – 6/18  
Sonia Evans – 6/21  
Ruth Getz – 6/26



## Calendar



## **Church Sponsored Meetings and Events**

Sunday, June 2: Gleaners, following worship

Tuesday, June 11: Church Council, 7:00 pm

Wed. June 26: Isaiah 61 Harrisburg Homeless Feed

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

## **Community Use of the Church Building**

G.S troop 11339 meet ever 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday, 2 pm

G.S troop 11516 meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6 pm

G.S troop 11338 meet every Thursday, 6 pm

Sunday, June 9th- Men in Harmony Concert, 6 pm

Thursday, June 20: Lions Club, 6:30 pm

Monday, June 24: Girl Scout Leaders, 6 pm

Thursday, June 27: 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