



# ZION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DAUPHIN PA 17018

September 2024

Newsletter

**WORSHIP: 9:15 am**

**Sunday September 8**  
**God's Work Our**  
**Hands**



ELCA

**pack school kits after church**

**Worship and Sunday school times**  
**changing on September 15.**

**Sunday School: 9am**

**Worship: 10:15 am**

## 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 August meeting of Church Council was held August 13.

**THE SEARCH GOES ON** – As reported at the July 14 informational meeting of the congregation, we have shifted the focus of our efforts to fill the pulpit. The scarcity of full-time pastors available to be called, coupled with our current size, needs, and resources, has caused us to alter the direction of our Call process. We are now focused on finding a “ministry partner” – another congregation with similar needs and limitations – with whom we can partner to share a pastor. Assistance from the Synod is an integral part of this process. To that end, on August 12<sup>th</sup> members of the Church Council met with Rev. Richard Jorgensen, who is the Director for Evangelical Mission on the Synod staff. Rev. Jorgensen has prime responsibility as the liaison to congregations, like ours, who are seeking a ministry partner.

Our meeting with Rev. Jorgensen was informative and affirming. He was impressed by the breadth of community outreach activities we sponsor or support. He noted: “You have good things going on here.” He also stressed that our history and involvement in the Dauphin/Middle Paxton community is a big plus. By providing food for the needy, making our space available for community groups, and expanding our footprint within the community through our dinners and Easter Eggs, we have an impact beyond Sunday morning. Rev. Jorgensen advised that each week Synod staff gathers for a “Mobility Meeting,” where congregations in

need of pastors are actively discussed, and potential alignments are considered. He promised: “We will be talking about you; we will not give up on you.”

Regarding the specifics of “shared ministry,” Rev. Jorgensen outlined three potential scenarios:

- (1) Identify another congregation with a vacant pulpit and partner with them to issue a joint call to a Pastor, who would then serve both congregations.
- (2) Zion calls a Pastor, and then contracts out a portion of that person’s time to another congregation.
- (3) Identify a congregation that we are compatible with which has a pastor and is willing to contract out part of that pastor’s time to us.

Obviously, each of these scenarios will require careful coordination to ensure that the pastoral needs of all concerned are appropriately accounted for and considered. Rev. Jorgensen cautioned that there are likely to be “no quick and easy answers.” However, he also quoted from Jeremiah, chapter 29, where the Lord declares: “I have plans for you so when you call on me, I will hear you.”

Since our August 12 meeting Council President McCommons has been in further contact with Rev. Jorgensen and has actively reached out to several congregations in the area. Mick continues to pursue leads as they become available. We are prayerfully optimistic that our pastoral needs will find a permanent solution in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, we continue to be blessed by the ministry of Deacon Huth, and look forward to the return of Pastor Ludwig in October.

- **Financial Reports:**

	Jan-June	July	Year 2024
Receipts	\$114,892.66*	\$13,383.18	\$128,275.84
Less: Expenditures	\$84,595.05	\$14,126.80	\$98,721.85
Excess or (Deficit) - Receipts Over Expenses	\$30,297.61	\$ (743.62)	\$29,553.99

\*Easter Egg and Dinner proceeds (\$10,000 each)

Total Funds: \$ 276,797.05

Obligated Funds: \$ 102,038.42

Available Funds: \$ 174,758.63

**HELP WANTED:** When Tracy Sudia retired from her position as our part-time office administrator/secretary, it left a hole that has yet to be filled. Your Council is actively seeking a replacement. We anticipate that we will need 12-15 hours per week. Salary is negotiable. Tell your friends and acquaintances. Contact Tom

Scott, 717 503-0325, tscott@killiangephart.com.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome – we love guests.

**You are invited to join the Choir!**

As fall approaches the choir will be gearing up for weekly rehearsals to prepare anthems each Sunday beginning September 8. Anyone who may be interested in becoming part of the choir

fellowship is cordially invited to a “no obligation” first rehearsal on Thursday, August 29 at 7 p.m. in the church nave. We’ll be looking at some new music ordered this summer so come and try it out to see if singing with the group is something that you’d like to add to your church involvement. Questions? Contact Doug Bonsall, 717-460-0723.

## Outreach Committee Report July/August 2024

The committee has been busy planning, collecting, and implementing many projects and events, here are just a few.

**Senior Food Box Program-** August 15, we served 21 seniors with a box of food and some produce.

**Isaiah 61-** July 24, Zion prepared and served hot dogs and hamburgers, baked beans, watermelon, water and iced tea, and a bagged lunch with a bottle of water. We served over 100 people. The next homeless feed is August 28.

**Welcome Letter-** The committee has completed a “Welcome to Dauphin” letter that will get mailed to new residence in the Dauphin area.

**Senior Bus Trip-** We have a lot of interest in this trip to the American Music Theatre. There will be a Christmas show, a meal, and transportation included in the cost. If interested, please see Luc. Looking ahead, there is another trip being planned for May 2025.

**Game Night** - Our second game night for the year occurred on July 19. Hotdogs, snacks, soda, and ice cream were served to approximately 20 attendees. This was not as well attended as the prior one. We decided to have game nights in the

months of January, February, March, and April, on the first Friday of each month.

**God's Work Our Hands Sunday 9/8/2024** - All the supplies for the service projects have been collected. Thanks to EVERYONE who donated items or sponsored items. Two Thrivent grants have been received, giving us \$500.00 to help cover some of the cost of the towels and backpacks.

The committee thanks every one of you that support our community outreach events and projects, none of them would be possible without your support.

God's peace to you all.

Melanie Mimmall

## **IT'S (almost) DINNER TIME**

The wait is nearly over – Fall brings colored leaves and ... on the Second Saturday ... fabulous home-style dinners from Sonia and Elsie's Kitchen! Here is the projected menu:

October 12 – PORK and SAUERKRAUT

November 9 – To be determined – but you can be sure it will be good!

December is Christmas – you are on your own!

January 11 – Chicken and waffles

February 8 – Italian Dinner

March 8 – Roast Beef

All dinners are served from 12 noon until 4:00 pm. Dinner preparation is at the church on the Friday evening before the dinner, beginning at 6:00 pm – work is available for both skilled and unskilled labor!

Contact: Sonia (717) 579-0591

Elsie (717) 599-5444

## **Zion Notes**

### **Thank you from Craig Staller**

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, thoughts, and get-well wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. Your support, care, and kindness are a blessing and healing from God. Thank you again!

### **Sunday School Visitors Welcome!**

Do you have a story of faith, favor Bible story, craft or song that you would be willing to share with the children? The children would love to have you visit the Sunday School classroom. Please contact Tammy if interested.

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

September 9-13

October 7-11



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

### **Nature's Jewels**

Walking thru the woods  
One misty, rainy day;  
Rain drops hung from the trees,  
Like jewelry on display.

What a pretty necklace,  
Those rain drop beads would make.

But if we try to string them,  
I'm sure they all would break!

*Jean E. Doren*

## **September Anniversaries**

Thomas & Jane Scott – 9/7  
Tony & Sheila Shaw – 9/15  
David & Judy Szostek – 9/25

## **September Birthdays**

Amber Smith – 9/8	Sue Wright – 9/22
Robert Hunter – 9/11	Joan Anderson – 9/24
Eric Hunter – 9/15	Wyatt Musselman – 9/25
Jane Scott – 9/16	Samuel Wesner – 9/25
Noreen Hunter – 9/19	Eva Wesner – 9/27

## **Calendar**

### **Church Sponsored Meetings and Events**

Sunday, September 1- Gleaners meeting -after church  
Tuesday, September 10: Church Council, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, September 19: Senior Foodbox, 11 am – 2 pm  
Wed. September 25: Harrisburg Homeless Feed  
3:00 pm Food Prep, 6:00 pm depart for Harrisburg

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

Thursday, September 19: Lions Club, 6:30 pm  
Monday, September 23: Girl Scout Leaders, 6 pm  
Thursday, September 26: Historical Society, 6 pm  
G.S troop 11339: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 2 pm  
G.S troop 11516: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 6 pm  
G.S troop 11338: Thursdays, 6 pm