



Zion's News



Pastor Rob Myallis

Dec. 2015

Zion's Mission Statement: Reflecting Christ, we are called to share God's gifts

8:15 AM Sunday Morning Prayer Service

A Special Service for Advent

Beginning November 29, the first Sunday of Advent

One of my joys last Advent was our early Morning Prayer service. In the midst of December's busyness, I thoroughly enjoyed sitting in church and having a moment of peace and calm. The morning light streaming through the beautiful stained glass windows offered everyone a wonderful chance to contemplate the coming of Jesus Christ.

This smaller service was a joy to many last year and so this year again we will offer a second Sunday morning worship service at 8:15 AM. We intend to offer this service each week during Advent (the four Sundays leading up to Christmas). This service will look and feel different than our 10:30 worship service.

- The service will last 30-40 minutes.
- The service will have much less music and liturgy. The music we have will be familiar and simple; there will be one hymn and one or two pieces of liturgy.
- We will have Confession and Forgiveness and celebrate Holy Communion.
- We will have one Scripture lesson and a sermon but no children's message.
- We will have time for prayers.
- We will not staff the nursery during this service; our choirs will sing at the 10:30 service.

The reasons for us to offer this type of service include:

- Contemplation: Advent is a season of preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus Christ. We want to offer a worship service that gives space for silence and reflection during this season that is always so busy and full.
- Schedule: We know that families have full calendars in December, often with "mandatory" family events. We want to make it possible for people to worship during December (and therefore Advent). Some churches offer a mid-week service during Advent. We may try a Wednesday night contemplative service in the future, but thought that an early Sunday morning worship would be more effective for our congregation.
- Room: Our worship during Advent gets quite full. We do not want people turning away because they cannot find parking or a seat.

I thank our musicians and altar guild for their extra work in making this service possible. We do not anticipate huge crowds at this service. But that is okay. We all need a bit of time to take a deep breath in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

In Christ,

Pr. Rob Myallis

Advent at Zion's

Ways we prepare for the coming of Christ

Morning Prayer Worship

During Advent (Starting Nov 29), we will offer a morning prayer worship service starting at 8:15. The service will last 30-40 minutes. The music we have will be familiar and simple; there will likely be one hymn and one or two pieces of liturgy.

Advent Wreath Event: Wednesday, Dec 2

Build an advent wreath for your home. Supplies provided thanks to Thrivent. But, if you have a wreath frame or trimmed greens, please bring them along. 6:45 PM, Social Hall. Please RSVP to Deacon Emily (deaconemily@comcast.net).

Caroling to Homebound: Sunday, Dec. 13.

We will have lunch following worship at approx. 12:30, and then leave the church about 1:00. Poinsettias will be delivered to the shut-ins as well. All are welcome to come along caroling!

Sanctuary Decorating: Dec 12 in the morning. Stop on by!

Christmas Pageant - Dec 20 @ 7 PM.

This is a great way for children to learn the story of Christmas! Practices on Sat Dec 12 and 19 @ 10 AM and on Sunday morning during Sunday School time. Questions? Contact Joel Guldin (joel.guldin@gmail.com; 865-3603)

Sunday School Party - Dec 19 @ Noon

Following Pageant practice, children are invited to the Sunday School Christmas party. This is followed by Youth Babysitting!



Lego Bethlehem!

Hello everyone, Dylan Houser here. As you know the Christmas season is approaching which means it is time to set up our yearly nativity.

I am planning on having the meeting after church on Sunday, December 6 until 2pm. A meal will be provided.

If your child is in 3rd grade or above they may participate in the activity. They will be: building through simple processes, designing their own village hut, and

possibly more!

Please RSVP to me at my email: dpickles13@live.com /Cell: 383-9163

ASAP as I need to know how much food to purchase. Best wishes and I hope to see your builder there. Also, if you have more questions regarding age concerns please let me know.

Social Ministry

Chair: Sharon Davis (dsdavis11@comcas.net, 865-2781)

Lebanon County Christian Ministries

(LCCM) Wish List:

Food Bank:

Frozen Hams
Canned Soups
Bottles of Juices
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Canned Meats/Stews
Peanut Butter
Clothing Bank:
Men's pants (28-36)
Men's shoes (9-11.5)

Other:

Bath Towels
Wash cloths
Diapers & Wipes
Paper Towels
King/Qu Sheets
& Blankets

Reusable Plastic containers

Place contributions in the container marked "LCCM" in social hall. (Watch expiration dates)

Homebound Birthday

(Cards, Calls, Visits)

Harold Schaeffer PH: 228-0909
Elmcroft Rm. 145 Birthday: Dec. 19
860 Norman Dr.
Lebanon, PA 17042

Did you know??? A Complete list of names and addresses of our homebound and student members is located on the big bulletin board in the gathering area.



Please send a Christmas Card to our missionary in Jerusalem.

Ralen Robinson, our sponsored missionary this year is far from home and staying in a troubled part of the world. Will you send her a Christmas card to let her know that members of our congregation are thinking and praying for her. The last date for mail to reach Ralen in time for Christmas is **December 9**. Her address is:

Ralen Robinson
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
P.O. Box 14076
Muristan Road
Old City Jerusalem, via Israel 91140

Jonestown Outreach Pantry (JOY)

Wish List:

Food Bank:

Pancake syrup & Mix
Chili, Spam, Rice
Boxed potatoes
Stuffing Mix
Mixed Vegetables
Canned Soup & Stew
Boxed Cake & Cookie mix
Canned beets, carrots, lima beans, corn, yams

Other:

Baby Wipes
Shampoo
Conditioner
Deodorant
Diapers
Dish/laundry detergent
Kleenex



Especially needed: Canned soups & fruits

Place contributions in the container marked "JOY" in social hall. (Watch expiration dates)

Fill – a – Sill

Thank-you to everyone for your contributions to Fill – a – Sill. Zion's gave 175 pounds of food items to the Jonestown Outreach Pantry.

Caroling to Homebound

All are welcome to join us to carol to the homebound on Sunday, Dec. 13 at approximately 12:45pm. Following worship, we will have a light lunch in the Social Hall and then carpool to our homebound.

Angel Tree

We will once again provide Christmas gifts for needy families in the Jonestown area. Look for the "Angel Tree" in the Gathering Area.

1. Choose a paper angel from the tree.
2. Shop for the clothing item listed on the angel.
3. Gift-wrap the item.
4. Tape the paper angel on the top of the package.
5. Place the gift on a table at the back of the Social Hall.

Deadline for donations: Sun. Dec. 20

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Place donation in an envelope marked "Needy Families" in the offering plate. Money will be used for any clothing items that were not gotten.



Christian Education & Youth

Chair: Tracy Hoy (tlh328@verizon.net;272-6542)

Wednesday Night's at Zions:

- 5:30 pm: Community Dinner
- 6:15-6:45: Joyful Spirits Worship
- 6:45-7:30: Bible Study
- 6:45-7:30: King's Kids

December Fun with Kings Kids

Kings Kids is a Biblical Playdate for children with parents Wednesdays 6:45pm in the Social Hall. Join us!

- Dec. 2 - Advent Wreath Making
 - Dec. 9 - we'll walk to the home of Mrs. Phillips to tour her indoor Christmas Village with treats too!
 - Dec. 16 - Gingerbread Nativity Building
- Please RSVP for all the above events to
deaconemily@comcast.net

Thanks to BGs:

Kings Kids THANKS BGs grocery store for donating all the cookies at our Veterans Appreciation "cookies and crafts" night - THANK YOU!

Women's "Wine Down" Bible Study

Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 8:30 to 9:30 PM.

Join in the study and discussion of a "Slightly Bad Girl of the Bible" each month and enjoy a glass of wine from a church family's vineyard. (Water, etc. will also be available.)

- Bring your Bible, favorite wine glass, and comfy clothes for a relaxing hour together!
- We will not meet in December, but, mark your calendar for the future date of Jan. 20. Questions - contact Janet Bird 865-5636



Wise Guy's Bible Study Every 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m., men are invited to Bible Study in the social hall, with breakfast!

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

- December 2, 9 and 16 Please Sign-Up near the Social Hall to bring a soup to share!
- Wednesdays 5:30pm Following dinner, we'll have special Advent Joyful Spirits Worship.



Zion's Youth Update

We have kept December's schedule light, so youth can enjoy more time with their families and friends. Youth Group calendar:

- Friday, December 4th. We will meet the youth at Infinitos for a Youth Group Christmas Dinner (\$9.00 each)
- Thursday, December 17th, Join J&L for the Community Christmas Caroling at Zion's 6:15 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Church Activities:

- Zion's Pageant rehearsal: December 12, 13, and 19th. After the Sunday School party on Dec 19, we will offer babysitting in the afternoon as a fundraiser. Christmas Pageant, December 20th.
 - Mark the date for Senior High youth (9th-12th grade) Sunday, January 3rd. They are being invited to worship and experience an introduction to Winterfest with us, in the Lancaster Host Resort.
 - Sunday, January 24th First Youth Group Meeting of the New Year.
 - Sunday, January 31st, Talent Show
- Peace and Joy, Jim and Laurie Gill



Teddy Bear Ministry

From the beginning of October, you have seen a teddy bear seated on each of the window sills in our sanctuary. This marks the beginning of a new ministry at Zion's, the Teddy Bear Ministry. No matter a person's age, those who are celebrating, sad, ill, grieving, or in need of love, would welcome a bear to hug. If you know someone who would appreciate the gift of a Zion's bear, they are available for purchase. All the bears have a tag that states the following:

I have been living at the Zion's Lutheran Church in Jonestown, PA.

I have been loved by members, learned from sermons and scripture, and heard songs of praise.

I have been soaked in God's love and come to you with blessings of hope and love from our congregation.

The back of the tag gives the church's name, address, telephone number, web site address, and Facebook page, and asks the bear owner to drop us a line to let us know what receiving the bear has meant to them. The cost of each bear is \$10.00, which will sustain the ministry. You are welcome to take a bear directly from the window sills. Please give cash, or a check made payable to the church, to Christine Techky. Also, beginning with baptisms in October 2015, the church will donate a Zion's bear to every child on the one-year anniversary of his or her baptism.

Record a Story for a child

The Storybook Prison Ministry is looking for volunteers for its Lebanon County Correctional Facility program. This is organized by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America (WELCA) and supported by Lebanon County Lutheran Churches.

Three times a year—around Easter, Labor Day, and Christmas, volunteers spend about two hours at the Lebanon prison recording incarcerated mothers reading a story to their children. Volunteers then transfer the recordings to CDs and send the CDs, together with the storybooks, to the children so that they may listen at home to the voice of their mothers reading a bedtime story. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please email Christine Techky at christinotech@juno.com, 933-5298.

New Members

Open House at Pastor's House

Did you join the church in the past two years? You are invited to stop by the pastors' house on Sunday Dec 6 from 3-5 for cookies and punch.

We also welcome Catherine Freeman back into Membership at Zion's. She grew up at this congregation and recently asked to be transferred back onto our rolls. You can contact her c/o Susan & Glenn Martin
9 Sherri Ln.
Lititz, PA 17543

Grief During the Holidays

While Christmas can be a season of great joy, it can also be a season of great grief and mixed emotions. We can become overwhelmed with bittersweet memories of the past. This can be especially difficult because everyone expects us to be happy and joyful. Our congregation is offering people two outlets for grief this season:

Grief Group - Need a place to connect with others who are grieving? Know a friend who does? Our grief group will meet in December, tentatively on Dec 8 at Fran Phillips house. This group creates a safe space for grief. We will meet at 7:30 pm. Our time together lasts about one hour

Community Blue Christmas - Dec 20 at 2 PM at Lum Funeral Home. This service gives people space to acknowledge their many emotions as they praise God for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service can be very helpful for people who are missing loved ones due to death or changed family circumstances.

COUNCIL

President: Ed Ludwig (eludadv@comcast.net; 865-3757)

Highlights from November, 2015 Council Meeting:

- Council Member Michele McQuaide offered a devotion on Jesus and our congregation's love for children.
- Pastor Rob indicated his desire to deepen the prayer life of those serving on Council.
- Rejoiced in health of Wednesday night ministries.
- Council approved Finance Committee's 2016 budget for congregational vote at the Dec 13 congregational meeting. (This budget is included in this newsletter) All current members on council have agreed to another term if elected.
- Impact of letter and Council President Ed Ludwig's comments about Stewardship was assessed. It was noted that giving has been strong in late October and early November. In fact, our giving has been good this year with the exception of July and August. We continue to discuss ways to encourage people to make a commitment whether they are in church or not to support the ministry. Pastor Rob discussed that he is discerning a call to be bolder in asking people to support the ministry at Zion's.
- Noted the Hollyberry Bazaar was a success.
- Approved purchase of Advent Wreath from Memorial Fund.
- Continued discussions on a staff-congregation sub-committee of Council to help shepherd job descriptions and evaluations of staff.
- Pastor Rob noted that a number of people have indicated their willingness to serve as Shepherds.

Save the dates: Dec. 13 after worship - Congregation meeting to elect council members, and approve the 2016 budget-

Jan. 24, 2016 after worship - Congregation dinner/meeting to review 2015 and plan 2016 ministries.

Stewardship and Finance

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Kathleen Ludwig:
Harold & Grace Dennis



Touching Tomorrow Endowment Grants

The Church's Endowment Fund distributes money, in the form of grants, for mission and outreach beyond the normal church budget and usually, beyond the church walls. The aim of such grants is to "Touch Tomorrow," allowing for present and future ministry.

Grant applications are available in gathering areas. They are due by Dec 4.

Electronic Giving - Interested in simplifying how you give to the church? You can now sign up for Electronic Giving through the internet. Use this QR code to access this site through your smartphone. You can also go to our website and click on the "Giving" link.



Shepherding

Council and I are proposing the creation of "Shepherds" in our congregation. We aim to have 15-20 Shepherds. Their responsibility would be to ensure that a select number of people they are given (roughly 6-7 family units) would receive periodic check-ins from the congregation (a birthday card; a call when they've missed church in a while; an invite to a special event at the church). The hope is that this would deepen our relationships with each other; help all of our members feel a part of the church; develop and harness the God-given gifts of encouragement and care that the shepherds have. We would like to have this ministry start in the new year.

Is this something you might be interested in? We hope so. People of every age are welcome into this ministry! Feel free to contact me at this point (rev.rob@comcast.net; 865-3652). Our hope is to have two info sessions of approximately 20-30 minutes. First on Sunday, December 13 (9:30 AM, during children's pageant practice) and then Wednesday December 9 (7:30 PM).

Worship

Chair: Noel Strattan (dns@telecommute.net; 865-7747)

New Sound System

Our church recently purchased a number of items for our sound system. We realize this has meant there have been a few “loud” noises the past weeks as we have worked to adjust the system. The problem is not the new pieces, but rather the fact we have to sync new stuff with all the other pieces and electronics in our church, some of which are very old. Fortunately, we think we have it figured out! Thanks to Michael Johnsen, Lynn Kleinfelter, Doug Watson and Noel Strattan for their work on this project.

The new pieces were purchased for two reasons. First, our board was damaged in a lightning storm three years ago. Unfortunately, we did not realize this until it was too late to make an insurance claim. While we have been getting by, the new board is allowing us to access microphone jacks we could not before. This will make it easier for musicians at our church and allow us to pick up better sound for recordings. Furthermore, we hope to greatly improve our online broadcasting ability through this.

Lastly, this was purchased out of the memorial fund. We thank people for their generosity. Our memorial fund money is used primarily for things of lasting value that enhance our worship experience. Council has been focusing memorial money on the balcony, including the new railing, improved sound system and in 2016, repairs to the chimes.

Cherub Choir Director

Our current director, Steph Livingston, is planning to step down at the end of the year. If you are interested in serving in this way, contact Pastor Rob.

Gluten Free

We have begun serving gluten free bread for Holy Communion.



Christmas Eve Services

Very Special Family Service

7:00 p.m. with Junior
Choir Anthem



Traditional Candlelight Service

Holy Communion Service
10:30 p.m.

Koinonia News

Upcoming Activities: Christmas Banquet: Sat. Dec. 12 – 6:00pm at the Quentin House.

Cost: \$20.00 (includes tax and tip) Look for a sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

All are welcome for an evening of good food, and fellowship.

Meeting – Jan. 9, in the Sunday School room by the church mailboxes.

Projects

- ♦ The 11th Hollyberry Bazaar was held on Sat. Nov. 7. Thank-you to Kristin Hoffer and Heather Moyers for all of the time and planning that helped to make our bazaar a great success. Some new booths were added, as well as new crafts. Thank-you to all who baked cookies, (175 trays were sold), made candies, jams, crafts, gift baskets, etc. Thank-you to those who helped to get ready for the bazaar and worked at the booths. Also, thank-you to all who attended the bazaar. We are truly grateful for your support. Proceeds from the bazaar are gifted back to the church. Gift to the church: \$2000 was approved to be given to the General Fund.

Additional Bazaar money will be used to purchase paper goods, coffee, etc. for the kitchen and any other expenses throughout the year.

Election - New officers for 2016

President – Sharon Davis

Vice President – Ken Hess

Secretary – Pat Keefer

Treasurer – Janet Bird



December 2015



SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Bulletin deadline is every Tuesday		1	2 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	3 Committee night	4	5
6 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7	8 7:30 Grief group	9 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	10 7:00 pm Council	11	12 8:00 am Men's Bible study Then decorating church 10:00 am Sunday School pageant practice 6:00 pm Koinonia Banquet
13 9:00 Sunday School (pageant practice) 10:30 Worship Congregational meeting following worship -then Caroling to shut-ins	14	15	16 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	17 Northern Lebanon Rec Community Christmas Caroling, ending at Zions for refreshments	18	19 10:00 am Sunday School pageant practice followed by Party followed by Youth Group Babysitting fundraiser til 3 pm
20 9:00 Sunday School (pageant practice) 10:30 Worship 2:00 pm Blue Service @ Kreamer Lum Funeral Hm. 7:00 pm Sunday School Pageant	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Family Service 10:00 pm Candlelight Service	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Getting to know you time	28	29	30	31		

Worship Participants for December

	Lectors	Crucifer	Sound Tech	Counters	Acolytes	Nursery Attendants	Children's sermon	Prayers of the People
6	Bush Family	Daryl Hess	Eric Schulden	Sharon & Larry Houser	Grace Ludwig Tanner Feagley	Laura Bush Kelly Rittle	Sharon Houser	Deb Reiner
13	Brightbill Family	Michael Johnsen	Ben Smith	Ken Nelson Jr. Kelly Rittle	Max Ludwig Mason Livingston	Cathy & Riley Houser	Stephanie Livingston	Linda Toth
20	Livingston Family	Kevin Feagley	Lynn Kleinfelter	Darryl Bush Deb Reiner	Xander McQuaide Joey Hoffer	Darryl Bush	Linda Toth	Laurie Gill
27	Janelle Kiscaddin	Jim Adams	(24-Lukas Quanbeck) Dylan Houser	Deb Long	(24 Becca & Joey) (24 Max & Grace) Kaitlyn Boisvert	Gizelle McFarland	Pastor Rob	TBD

Altar Guild	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Getting to know you time
6, Nancy/Lois 27, 1/3 Noel/Karen	13,20 Dawn/Pam 6,13 Pam Bixler, Linda Wenrich 20,24,27 Linda Toth, Terry Ludwig	Tom Keefer, Richard Hitz, Darryl Hess, John Mohn Jr.	Koinonia Class

Zion's will be decorating with poinsettias for Christmas this year. If you would like to sponsor any of these plants, please fill out the form below and place it and \$6.50 per plant in the offering plate any Sunday between now and December 13. Plants may be claimed by sponsors after church, December 27.

_____ Poinsettias were placed by _____ in honor/memory of _____.

return this form with your payment to the church, or place in the offering plate

