



Nov. 2017

Zion's News

*Reflecting Christ, we share God's gifts in
Jonestown and beyond.*



Pastor Caitlin Kurtz

Dear Church:

November is here. The month that is universally-recognized (well, at least in America), as a time to give thanks: for friends, food (usually, too much of it), family, health, shelter, freedom, and for so many other gifts that we enjoy day in and day out. Even when days are dark, and nights are long, as they have been for some in our community, this month urges us to pause, breathe, and give thanks for the good that *can always* be found.

So today I'd like to share two thanks-givings with you. Firstly, I want to say *thank you* for your partnership in ministry—for the ways you share your time, your gift, your money, and *yourselves* as we seek to do God's work in Jonestown and beyond. As I shared throughout our October sermon series, *everything we do* we are able to do because of what God first does for us, and in us. Because God forgives our sins, strengthens us for service, blesses us with material and immaterial resources, and sends us out, we *can* participate in the in-breaking of God's kingdom on earth. Because *you share* your gifts at Zion's, we *can*, and *do*, make real differences in the lives of others in the name of Jesus Christ. A special *thank you* to all who prayerfully and thoughtfully completed and turned in response cards this year. We will continue to accept these over the next few weeks, so please be sure to bring yours in. It is a privilege to be on this journey of faith and discipleship with you.

Personally, Seth and I continue to be thankful that his deployment is going extremely well. We so appreciate your continued thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes during this season of our life. We are also incredibly grateful to share the news that we are expecting our first child next spring! If all goes as planned, Baby Kurtz will arrive in late April, which *should be* a solid two months after Seth's homecoming. We can't wait to introduce our child to you, and look forward to watching him or her grow in faith surrounded by this loving, caring, joy-filled, and gifted community. While having a pastor who is pregnant is a 'first' for Zion's, being pregnant is also a 'first' for me! And we are grateful to be sharing this great adventure of pregnancy and parenting with you. Our Council and I will be working closely with synod staff in the months to come to ensure that our congregation is well cared for during my maternity leave. After we've had time to recover and bond as a family of three, I will be eager to return to life and ministry with you as, together, we move into the future that God is preparing.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry, and your prayerful support of our family. May we all take time this month to *pause, breathe, and give thanks to God*—no matter the trials and tribulations, joys or celebrations the month may bring. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

In hope, *Pastor Caitlin*

SPECIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, which makes our worship schedule a little odd. To ensure that we can fully celebrate all four weeks of Advent, we are moving Advent I forward one week from what is prescribed by the church calendar. Here's an overview of our Sunday worship schedule for the next two months:

- November 19: Christ the King and Global Church Sunday
- November 26: Advent I
- December 3: Advent II
- December 10: Advent III
- December 17: Advent IV
- December 24: Christmas Eve
 - 10:30 AM Nativity Story with Holy Communion
 - 7 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship
 - 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

Social Ministry

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

Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) Wish List:

Food Bank:

Peanut Butter & Jelly	Canned: meats
Instant Potatoes	white potatoes
Tomato Soup	applesauce
Chicken rice soup	peaches
Gravy	creamed corn
Juices	Spaghetti Sauce
Fruit cocktail	Baby food (1 & 3)
Pancake mix & Syrup	

Other:

Children's diapers	Baby Wipes
Toothpaste	Shampoo
Laundry Detergent	All-purpose cleaning prod
Deodorant	Twin Sheet sets
Men's Boxers all sizes	Men's T-shirts
Boy's Boxers	Girl's Underwear
Socks—All sizes	(NEW UNDERWEAR ONLY)
All-purpose cleaning products	

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

Jonestown Outreach Pantry (JOY) Wish List:

Food Bank:

Vegetable Soup	Canned meat, stew, chicken, spam
Canned Pasta	Hamburger Helper
Pancake Mix	Canned potatoes
Pancake Syrup	Canned Fruit
Boxed Potatoes	Peanut butter & Jelly
Other:	Toilet Tissue
Toothpaste	Polident

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



Angel Tree

Watch for the Angel Tree in the Gathering Area close to Thanksgiving when we will once again shop for Christmas gifts for needy families in the Jonestown area. More details to follow, watch your bulletins!

Lebanon County Christian Ministries Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

LCCM is sponsoring a dinner and silent auction on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, 600 Shepherd St., Jonestown. Cost is \$25. Entertainment by the Naimolis and the Lebanon High School Choir. Themed Basket auction begins at 5:30 pm. Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Go to www.lccm.us to purchase tickets.



Memorial Fund

In Memory of Harold Dennis

By: Donald & Sharon Davis



December and January Newsletters will be combined! Please have all pertinent information to Zion's office by

NOVEMBER 15.

Spang Crest News:

The social ministry committee hosted a birthday part on Oct. 3 for The Spang Crest October celebrants. Thank-you to Joel Guldin and John Noll for providing the entertainment.

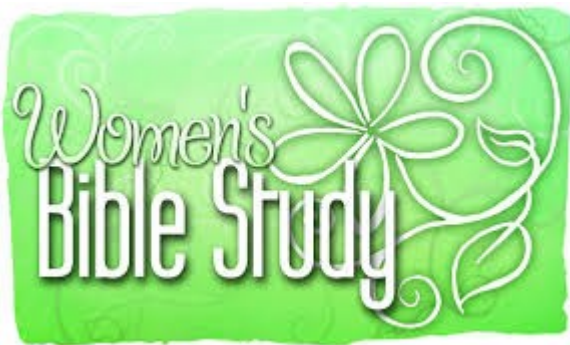
Prayer Chain

An e-mail prayer chain has been set up, so that if someone is hospitalized or has other needs during the week, we can e-mail you to begin prayers. Contact Sharon Davis, (dsdavis11@comcast.net) if you would like to be part of this valuable ministry.



Christian Education

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



Do you long to experience God's presence in your daily life? Do you wonder how to connect with God's peace and joy in the midst of your busy life? Join us for **Women's Bible Study** or **Lunch Bunch** this fall as we explore these questions and opportunities through our discussion of Tish Warren's book *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday*

Life. Both groups will meet on **Thursday, November 16**. Lunch Bunch begins at 12:30 PM at the new Swatara Coffee Company (40 W. Market St.) and Women's Bible Study meets at 7 PM at Deb Long's home. The book can be purchased on Amazon.

LUNCH BUNCH

Zion's Youth Update

In October we had a Youth Group and also a Parent's Meeting on October 1st. Thank You Parents for your support! Youth Group, thanks for your input on some "fun ideas" to explore for the future. For October 29th we had a Faith in Films Event for the movie "Luther" to celebrate The 500th Reformation.

We also had Jr. Youth Group on October 11th, where we had 4 pre-teens that participated. They also asked us if they could have a "Faith in Films" event for a future gathering. We will have one for them on December 12th. For that night in December we will eat dinner in the Youth Room and then watch a movie. Stay posted for more details coming in the bulletin!

Upcoming Events:

The November calendar is not fully planned, as we hope the Youth will choose to participate in the Advent Wreath Making event, and we are planning to have our Terrific Toy Ministry project this month (date to be announced in the future).

Jr. Youth Group will be Wednesday, November 8th. One of the members will be bringing the game to play this month. Jr. Youth Group starts at 6:45 P.M. and goes to 7:30. Rejoicing Spirits worship begins at 6:15 P.M. and the dinner starts at 5:30.

Joy! Jim and Laurie



Advent begins: November 26 — Advent Devotionals



ADVENT

Advent Devotionals for adults and for families will be available later this month for your pick up and use. NEW this year, you can also sign up to have the adult devotional emailed to your inbox each day! Visit <http://lutheranchurch.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up. Pastor Caitlin was a contributing author to this devotional, written by pastors and lay leaders all across the nation.

Worship

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

Have you ever noticed that list of names in your bulletin titled "Serving at Zion's Today" and wondered how you could become one of them? Any time is a good time to consider how you can become involved in worship at Zion's for the coming year. We have opportunities for all ages. All participation is on a rotating basis, so the frequency of service depends upon the number of people doing each job. The following are brief descriptions of the various ways to serve during service.

Lector

This is another name for someone who reads the lessons from the "lectionary." For us, this involves reading one, usually fairly short bible story and being the leader in the responsive reading of a Psalm (you read a verse, the congregation reads a verse). Anyone who can read out loud is welcome to be a lector. Once you express interest, the coordinator will contact you and schedule a Sunday for you. A few weeks before your day to read, you will be given a copy of the lessons so you can read them ahead of time. Another copy will be on the lectern (the podium from which you read) on that Sunday morning. We have several lectors, so each one reads only a few times a year. If you find this interesting and would like to volunteer, contact Ken Hess (717) 865-2884 or Noël Strattan (717)-865-7747.

Prayers of the People

This is someone who reads the prayers during worship. This involves being the leader in the responsive reading of a printer prayer (you read a prayer, the congregation says a response). Anyone who can read out loud is welcome to lead prayers of the people. Once you express interest, the coordinator will contact you and schedule a Sunday for you. You'll receive the prayer via email before your Sunday to read, so you can read them ahead of time. Another copy will be on the lectern (the podium from which you read) on that Sunday morning. We have several pray-ers, so each one leads only a few times a year. If you find this interesting and would like to volunteer, contact Linda Toth (717) 865-6333 or Noël Strattan (717)-865-7747.

St. John's UCC is hosting this year's Jonestown Council of Churches Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 PM.

Let us join together with our brothers and sisters in the local community to worship our God and give thanks for God's blessings. All are welcome.

There will be no community meal, Joyful Spirits, or Bible study this night.



The 14th Annual Jonestown Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Saturday, November 11 at the Jonestown Elementary School, Noon to 2:00 pm.

Admission is FREE, but tickets are required, see Ed Ludwig or Linda Wenrich for Tickets or obtain from: BG's Market, JBT Bank, Sheer Elegance, or Krall's General Store.

Menu: Ham, Filling & gravy, bread, green beans, applesauce, beverages, and desserts.

This event is sponsored by the churches of the Jonestown Community.

Come and spend time with friends and neighbors.

Celebrate and give thanks for all that is good in life.

Enjoy the entertainment!

Find out what is happening in your community.



COUNCIL

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

Council Highlights from September 21, 2017 meeting

- Zion's will begin a five week Stewardship Preaching Series on Sunday, September 24. The theme is: "In response to God's grace", with each following week focusing on a different thing disciples do in response to God's grace. Worshipers will be asked to complete and turn in a response card on Sunday, October 29, which reflects how they intend to *respond* to God's grace in the year to come.
- Council began a review of our new Constitution, which will go to the congregation for a vote at our December congregational meeting. This new Constitution reflects many long-overdue changes that are required by the ELCA and our Lower Susquehanna Synod.
- County wide Reformation worship celebration will be held at Friedens Lutheran Church in Myerstown 10/29 at 4pm

Council Highlights from October 12, 2017 meeting

- We completed review of the new Constitution. Copies of the proposed Constitution will be available for review after the November Council meeting online, and in the Gathering Area. Questions about the new Constitution can be directed to Ed Ludwig, Noel Strattan, or Pastor Caitlin.
- Council received Pastor Caitlin's request to switch her family's healthcare from ELCA sponsored Portico Benefits to Seth's Tricare benefits. We approved this request, which will provide better coverage for Pastor and her family, and cost Zion's less money. The annual cost differential will go into our Touching Tomorrow Endowment.

Koinonia News

Next meeting – Sat. Nov. 11 – 6:30pm at the church

Hollyberry Bazaar – Sat. Nov. 4 - 8:00am – 2:00pm

We are looking for volunteers to help with this major project. Donations, helping at a table, setting up and cleaning up are all needed. All proceeds benefit our church.

Schedule: Thurs. Nov. 2 - 9:00am – 12:00noon – prepare soup, boxing candy and cookies
Thurs. Nov. 2—6:30pm - set up and decorate
Fri. Nov. 3 – 9:00am – 12:00noon – preparing soup, boxing candy and cookies

Kitchen: Karen Hitz (717-272-9520) New breakfast items will be available for sale.

Cookies: Sharon Davis (717-865-2781) We are asking for donations of 2 dozen homebaked cookies. We appreciated your generous support in the past. This is one of our big sellers.

Candies: Blanche Sebastian (717-865-3336)

Plants: Linda Toth (717-865-6333)

Books: Jean Fowler (717-926-7793) A book bin is located in the Social Hall for gently used book donations.

Gift Baskets: Georgetta Wolfe (717-865-3884) If you want to donate a basket, but don't want to wrap it, contact Georgetta.

This 'n That: Janet Bird (717-865-5636)

Cathy Houser: raffles

We are always looking for new craft ideas for the 2017 Bazaar. Contact **Kristin Hoffer** (jkhoffer@yahoo.com) or **Heather Moyers** (info@maximcontractors.com) for more information.

Hollyberry Bazaar This and That/Children's Table

- ♦ All items are sold below retail price. (5 cents to \$2.00)
- ♦ Children and adults shop at this table.
- ♦ Donations are welcome and do not have to be just Christmas-related.
- ♦ Suggestions: small toys/dolls/balls, activity books, knick knacks, stationery items, children's jewelry, puzzles/games, new stuffed animals

Items can be placed in the red bin below the coat rack at the north primary Sunday school entrance. If you have questions contact Janet Bird at jbird75@comcast.net.



EXTRA Special Sundays At Zions

All Saints Sunday—November 5



We invite you to bring with you pictures of loved ones, past and present, to worship on All Saints Sunday, November 5. On this day the Church remembers and honors those who have become saints of God through baptism, as well as those who have died and joined the Church Triumphant. On this day, we celebrate the witness of these persons who touch our lives, and hold fast to God's promises made in baptism. *To mark this festival day at Zion's, we will fill our window sills with photos of the saints in our lives.* So, please, bring as many pictures as you'd like—in frames or out—and help us remember that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!

Global Church Sunday—November 19

November 19 is Global Church Sunday-- a day that we celebrate the Christian church around the world in all of its beautiful diversity. We will mark this day in a number of ways, but two that you need to know about in advance:

1) The Worship and Music Committee is putting together a video of places our congregants have worshiped here and around the world for that very special day. We need your help! If you have pictures or (digital) video of a church or church function you visited that isn't Zion's--either here in the US or abroad--please send them to Joanna Guldin-Noll at joanna.guldin@gmail.com. (If they're physical pictures, you can give them to her at church or put them in Maryann Guldin's mailbox.) Please also note who (if anyone) is in the picture and where the picture was taken.



Also on Global Church Sunday . . . Luke Swanson, our Young Adult in Global Mission sponsoree from last year will be with us! Luke returned in July from a year in Argentina. He will present a program in the Social Hall with photos to our Sunday school at 9:30 AM followed by questions until 10 AM. He will also share some remarks in worship that day. Please plan to join us!



Zion's Family Advent Event—Sunday, December 3

You are invited to share in our Advent Family Event on **Sunday, December 3**, immediately after church. Join us in the social hall to enjoy a light lunch followed by decorating advent wreaths for your home. We will provide various greens and adornments as well as candles to decorate your wreath. Bring the entire family (and your Christmas spirit) and join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. **If you have a wreath frame left over from a previous year, bring that to decorate. However, if you need a frame, we will happily supply that for you.** Please sign up in the gathering area *by November 19*.



December 10, 2017—Zion's congregational membership meeting will be convened after worship on December 10, 2017, for the purpose of electing Council members to complete the 2018 Council, approving the 2018 budget, and **adopting a new constitution** which reflects many long-overdue required changes. A copy of the new constitution will be available for your review online and in the Gathering Area after the November Council meeting, together with copies of the proposed budget. Anyone interested in having their name included on the nominee's ballot for Council election should contact Ed Ludwig or Pastor Caitlin.

Save the date: Sunday, January 28, 2018 is the date of the **Annual Congregational Dinner meeting.**

NEWS YOU CAN USE



December and January Newsletters will be combined!
Please have all pertinent information to Zion's office by
NOVEMBER 15.

Christmas is coming, but it's nice to be remembered any time of the year too!
Below is a list of our homebound members.
Cards & calls are always appreciated.

Ingrid Erb 717-865-5850
48 Supervisor Dr.
Jonestown, PA 17038

Catherine Freeman 717-892-5306
Luther Acres
400 Saint Luke Dr., Rm. 205
Lititz, PA 17543

Bill Haniman 717-673-6948
114 Lakeside Dr.
Fredericksburg PA 17026

Elvin Heller 717-298-3190
Country Meadows Apt. 225
451 Sand Hill Rd.
Hershey, PA 17033

Elvena Mohn 717-865-2590
37 N. King St.
P.O. Box 212
Jonestown, PA 17038

Alma Paul 281-202-3891
Frey Village - Rm 115B
1020 N. Union St.
Middletown, PA 17057

Harold Schaeffer 717-228-0909
Elmcroft Rm. 145
860 Norman Dr.
Lebanon, PA 17042

Anna Sterner 717-202-7079
Cedar Haven Rm. 202D
590 S. 5th Ave.
Lebanon, PA 17042

Paul Zimmerman 570-345-4999
Providence Place
24 Hikes Hollow Rd.
Pine Grove, PA 17963



Zion's will be decorating with white poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please fill out the form below and return it and \$6.75 per plant (5-6 blooms) before November 30. Plants may be claimed by sponsors after late church on Christmas Eve.

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

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





November 2017



SUNDAY

MON




TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

Bulletin deadline is every Tuesday		1	5:30 Family Meal 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	2	12:30pm Lunch bunch	3	4	8-2 PM Hollyberry Bazaar				
5	9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Daylight Savings ends 	6	7	ELECTION DAY	8	5:30 Family Meal 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids/ Junior Youth Group	9	7:00 pm Council	10		11	8:00 am Men's Bible study Noon-2 Community Thanksgiving dinner
12	9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13	14	15	5:30 Family Meal 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	16	12:30pm Lunch bunch 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Deb Long's home	17	18			
19	9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Young Adult in Global Mission program 10:30 Worship	20	21	22	7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John's UCC	23		24	25			
26	9:15 Sunday School 10 Getting to know you time 10:30 Advent I Worship	27	28	29	9:00 am sewing 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	30						

Wednesday's at Zions

- 11/8 We invite current & retired service men and women to join us for a special Veteran's Day dinner, worship, and Kings kids.
- 11/15 Thanksgiving Crafts
- 11/22 NO Rejoicing spirits – Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/29 Advent Begins – Make an advent calendar

Wednesday Meals –

- 1st Wednesday is Pasta and Meatballs
- 2nd & 4th Wednesday is Casseroles
- 3rd & 5th Wednesday is Soups

If you cannot come Wednesdays, but would like to help sponsor a meal, please contact Monica on how to do this. It could be shopping for ingredients, preparing a meal, or just donating money or a gift card. Thanks for your help with this ministry!!

Worship Participants for November

	Lectors	Crucifer	Acolytes	Counters	Children's Sermon	Nursery	Prayers of the People
5		Daryl Hess	Katherine Sipe Zoe Brossman	Larry & Sharon Houser	Ed Ludwig	Laura Bush	Brian Adams
12		Jim Adams	Xander McQuaide Gavin Bush		Christine Techky	Gizelle McFarland Greta Kauffman	Michelle Bucks
19		Brian Adams	Ella & Cassie Bortz	Darryl Bush Deb Reiner	Tracy Hoy	Darryl Bush	Sharon Davis
26		Daryl Hess	Mason & Logan Llivingston	Deb Long Kelly Rittle	Pastor Caitlin	Brightbill family	Tom Frey

Altar Guild 5,12 McQuaide Family 19 Bortz Family 26 Jen/Noel	Ushers Cathy Houser, Dylan Houser, Larry Houser, Tom Mohn	Communion Assistants 5,12, Lynn & Tovie Kleinfelter 19,26 Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Getting to know you time Church Council
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*It's that time of year... time to submit requests
for money from our Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund!*

What is the purpose of the “Touching Tomorrow” Endowment fund?

The 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.

Who oversees the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

A Touching Tomorrow Committee oversees the Fund. This committee meets annually to decide expenditures based on the financial performance of the account and the specific requests. These purchases are not approved by council, but council approves the members of the committee. The committee currently consists of Darryl Bush (Chair), Terry Ludwig, Jim Gill, Kris Hoffer and Ashley Schade.

Where does the money come from in the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

The original money came from a large bequest to the church. Currently the fund has roughly \$420,000 in principle investments, which includes the original gift, but also later gifts and interest added to principle. Each year grants come from the interest and dividends on the account. These have varied over time. The hope is that in the future, more people will consider giving money, either in honor of loved ones, or as part of their estate planning, to the Touching Tomorrow Fund.

How can I contribute to the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, and you may benefit from significant tax advantages. By using a combination of certain financial and insurance products, you can even leave a bigger inheritance to your loved ones while preserving your desired gift to the fund. For more information on this strategy, you may consult your estate attorney or talk with Jim Gill, Zion’s representative from Thrivent Financial.

What kind of things has the Touching Tomorrow Fund supported?

Between 2006 and 2017, the Fund distributed over \$100,000 to various projects, including:

- Seed money for Social Hall Renovations Project; also money for repayment of existing debt
- Payment of previous Renovation Debt
- Seed money for launching Zion’s Preschool; continued scholarships for preschool families in need
- Funding to make our internship program possible
- West Virginia and New York City Youth Mission Trips
- Seminary scholarship money to support a member of our congregation, Jason Northridge, who is now a pastor
- Support for a Lutheran Missionary in West Africa, Viking Dietrich
- Support for a handful of local charities, including helping to fund a forklift for Lebanon County Christian Ministries
- Seed money for Zion’s Lego Club
- Camperships to Camp Kirchenwald
- Subsidized the cost of Zion’s Day Camp, making it an affordable option for families in our community

What kind of money is available for grants this year?

While the fund’s investments are conservative, fluctuations in the stock market means we will not know the exact amount of the distribution until closer to December 1. Last year we were able to distribute close \$10,300; we hope this year for another generous distribution.

How can you make a request for a project?

Simple: Fill out the front of this paper by Dec 1, 2017! To do this, you will need to identify which category your request belongs to:

- Education
- Local Ministries
- Congregational Programs
- Extended Ministries (National/International church/charity work)

If you have any questions about applying for these monies, the purpose of our Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund, or how to contribute to the endowment, please see any member of the Committee or Pastor Caitlin.

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 658
Jonestown, PA 17038-0658
(717) 865-3652

Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund

Request Consideration Order

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Person/Group: _____

Contact Person: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____

REQUEST DETAILS

Amount of Request: \$ _____

Purpose/Explanation of Request: _____

References: (Please include Name and Phone Number.)

1. _____

2. _____

If granted, may we publicize the fulfillment of the request?

Yes, you may publicize. No, please do not publicize.

DEADLINE/DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

- Deadline for all Requests is December 1, 2017.
- Distribution for selected requests will be between December 16 – December 31 2017.

For Zion's Use Only

Requested Granted: Yes No

Date:

Initials: