



Feb. 2020

Zion's News

*Gathered by God's grace, we are empowered to
serve and sent to share Christ's love.*



Pastor Caitlin Kurtz

Dear Members and Friends of Zion's:

As you will soon hear at our annual congregational meeting, one of our Council priorities for this year is “sharing the story” of God’s work in and through Zion’s. As Pastor, I am involved in most of the ministries that happen at Zion’s, which means I often get a front row seat to the “God stories” that happen all the time. It’s an awesome and a holy privilege. And over the year, I’ve come to understand that being ‘curator’, or caretaker, of these stories needs to be one of my priorities as your pastor. For it is so important that we be able to name, claim, and share the many ways God is working through us to love, care for, and redeem this world. At the same time, God has only given me two eyes, two ears, and one mouth: which are incapable of capturing and sharing all the stories that happen in and through our congregation. So, for newsletter articles this year I’m turning the story-telling reins over to members of our Council who will share a portion of their God story (how they understand God to be working in their lives), and some of how they experience *our* God story (where they see God at work in our congregation). I hope you enjoy this opportunity to get to know our congregational leaders better, and how they experience God. But, for one more month, here’s a piece of God’s story, through my eyes and ears and words:

What brought you to Zion’s, and how long have you been attending? The Holy Spirit brought me to Zion’s! Through a congregational call vote in July 2016.

What keeps you here? I believe the Spirit is *still* calling me to serve among you as Pastor and am also very grateful that the Spirit has created a place for my family (spouse Seth and daughter Madelyn) to belong and grow in faith.

Share a favorite memory of a worship service or event here. Madelyn’s baptism is a favorite memory, as is the very first worship service we attended as a family of three. These are memorable because they both afforded me the rare opportunity to worship in the pew with my family. I also really value the Sundays where our children and youth prepare and lead worship—it is so awesome to watch them grow into these roles, and to fill them with such joy and enthusiasm.

Share your favorite hymn/Bible verse/Bible story. My favorite verse for the past decade or so has been 1 Cor 13:12 “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.” This verse reminds me that I am called to serve faithfully, day to day, making the best decisions I can based on the information and time available—knowing that we will never see the *whole* picture, until that day we are united face to face with God. This verse calls me to humble trust in God, who alone sees the whole picture.

Share about a time God seemed especially present with you. I’ll never forget the time I was in China, helping open a healing home for babies born with cleft lip and palate and we had to send a child (with a heart defect) back to her orphanage, knowing she would soon die. I was overwhelmed with God’s promise that there is “nowhere we can go to flee from God’s presence”, and had to fully trust that God knew this baby and her needs, was holding her now in God’s loving arms, and would embrace her through all eternity.

What’s the one ministry at Zion’s you always share with others? (Or a time you were especially proud of how Zion’s lived in response to God’s call) I love our Rejoicing Spirits ministry, and am always glad to share it with others. It’s such an informal, joy-filled evening that I find it’s easy to invite others to participate because I **know** they will experience the love of God when they walk through the doors on a Wednesday night. Plus, everyone needs to eat!

What do you think God is calling our congregation towards? I believe God is calling each of us, individually and as a congregation, to deeper discipleship: to knowing God’s story (scripture) better, so we can see its intersection with our lives more clearly, and, ultimately, interpret our lives through the call of scripture. Whether one has been a Christian her whole life, or is just beginning the journey, I absolutely believe we are all always called to grow in faith, and I pray our congregation continues to take that call seriously.

With gratitude, and in hope, Pastor Caitlin

Christian Education

Chair: Michele McQuaide(michelemcquaide@rocketmail.com;330-958-3399)

ALL CHURCH - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

All church Sundays are when all ages meet in the social hall at 9:15 for a fun and interactive Sunday School experience, which concludes with Getting to Know you Time, (aka cookie day),

February 2- 9:15-10:10 AM



Wednesdays @ Zions Change:

Kings Kids will now be held only on the last Wednesday of the month, from 6:50 to 8:00 pm. This helps us lesson the conflict with youth choir.

LUNCH BUNCH

The next Lunch Bunch will be held on Thursday, February 13 at 12:30 pm at the Swatara Coffee Company. We'll be discussing "The Sea" and "Fish Stories" from Rachel Held Evans "Inspired". All are welcome!

The next Women's Bible study will be held at 7:00 pm, on Thursday, February 13, at MaryAnn Guldin's home. We'll also be discussing "The Sea" and "Fish Stories" from Rachel Held Evans "Inspired".



"Wise" guys: Men's Bible study will be held on February 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Zion's social hall. All men of the congregation are invited to join us for a morning of fellowship and learning, as well as some sweet goodies!



Dear Zions,

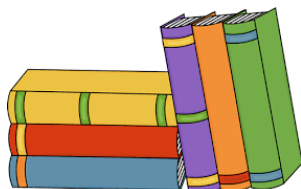
Greetings from seminary! Wanted to take a moment to express my tremendous gratitude for your generous gift. It's just after the new year and I am preparing to attend a week long course on preaching the Gospel. Thanks to your generous gift, I will be able to stay on campus for the week with my dog. Also wanted to thank you for your many prayers and support. They are uplifting as I continue on this journey. Much love and many thanks, Mike Johnsen.

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant and Christmas cards. - Elvena Mohn

To my church family, My heartfelt thanks for the very beautiful poinsettia and the many Christmas greetings. - Ingrid Erb

To my church family, Thank you for the poinsettia plant for Christmas. The phone calls, cards, and prayers were also appreciated! Thanks Pastor Caitlin for keeping in touch with me. - Julia Albert

Bring-A-Book, Take-A-Book



If you're looking for a Christian book to read during the long winter nights, check out the bottom two shelves in the gathering area. A number of new books have been added recently.

COUNCIL

Next Meeting: February 17, 2020

7:00 pm

President: Larry Houser (lhouser1@gmail.com; 717-865-6693)

Council Highlights from December, 2019 meeting

- Extensive discussion continues around Stewardship at Zions, the importance of intentional giving, and our plans for 2020.
- Council approved the use of up to \$2000 from the Memorial Fund for the 5-year load test and annual inspection of our elevator.
- Approved a \$80,000 Capital Campaign, tentatively entitled "Restore, Renew, Remain for Generations to come", to be sent to the congregation for approval at the January congregational meeting. This includes replacing three AC units in the sanctuary at \$8k a piece, repairing the rubber roof in the social hall for \$20k, repairing the crown moulding and painting the sanctuary for \$6k, purchasing a new heating/cooling unit for the pastor's office for \$4-5K, and paying off the \$22k that remains on the social hall loan (from when renovations were previously done)
- Received with joy the 2019 Touching Tomorrow approved endowment grants: \$360 to fund a day's worth of operations at LCCM's shelter, \$500 for the Lebanon County Envirothon, \$2000 to support Michael Johnsen as he continues in seminary, \$450 for Compeer, \$500 for Zion's Youth Group's 2021 trip, \$1000 for Habitat for Humanity projects in Lebanon and for Syrian Refugees, \$500 to create a professional video highlighting our Rejoicing Spirits ministry, \$1200 for Brittney's Hope to purchase specialized beds for four disabled children, \$4,812 to cover the principle and interest on our social hall loan for 2020, \$200 for Northern Lebanon Fire and Emergency Services, \$500 in preschool scholarships, \$450 for our Back to School Blessings event, and \$446 in seed money for the 2020 Basket Raffle-Auction.
- Elected new officers: Joanna Guldin-Noll as President, Christine Techky as Vice President, Kelly Rittle as Secretary, Cathy Houser as Treasurer, Debbie Long as Financial Secretary
- Reminded everyone that, effective January 2020, Council meetings will be at 7 PM on the THIRD MONDAY of each month.

Your Council members are: Joanna Guldin-Noll, President; Christine Techky, Vice President; Kelly Rittle, Secretary; Cathy Houser, Treasurer; Brian Adams; Terry Ludwig; Traci Root; Tracy Hoy; Noel Strattan; Deb Reiner; Kerri Price; Matt Wolfe; Linda Wenrich, and Pr. Caitlin Kurtz



Bake Off Game Night on Sunday February 16 at 6:30 PM!

Come taste the delicacies cooked up by members of our congregation, then try your hand at a "Minute to Win It" style game--like Face the Cookie (trying to eat a cookie off your face without any hands) or Defying Gravity (keeping three balloons in the air for a minute) or the Ping Pong Bounce (bouncing balls into cups). There's something for every age and ability! You won't want to miss it!

Zion's Logo Mugs

ON SALE NOW: You know what your office, kitchen, or coffee nook is missing?

A Zion's Lutheran mug! These ceramic mugs feature our church's new logo and make great gifts at the low, low price of \$10. (Of course, you can treat yourself to one, too!) Thanks to generous Thrivent Action Teams, the entirety of your donation will go directly to the youth group to help fund faith activities including attending --for the first time in Zion's history--in 2021, the ELCA Triennial Youth Gathering. Mugs are available for purchase during coffee time every week or see Joanna Guldin-Noll or John Noll.



Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020 @ Noon, at Martino's Italian Traditions restaurant, on Rt. 72, just north of Heisey's diner.

Activity: is being planned for Spring - Watch upcoming newsletters and bulletins!

Looking ahead to next year's bazaar, it is not too early to think about creating a basket, making a craft, or setting aside used items for Book and This and That tables. Due to limited space at church, it would be best if you would store donations until October, 2020. If you have questions contact Janet Bird, jbird75@comcast.net



Winter update for the 2020 Father's Day weekend shore trip

THE ROMAN HOLIDAY HOTEL IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE WINTER. If you call them at (609) 522-3111 you will receive a message directing you to e-mail them at stay@romanholidayresort.com. When e-mailing them, please be sure to mention that you are part of the Zion's Lutheran, Jonestown, PA group. During this winter closure time, you will have to verify with the hotel the best way to make your deposit payment.

The Roman Holiday is offering us an opportunity to put down a \$100 deposit NOW to hold a room for 2020. Currently there are many 1-bedroom efficiency suite rooms. Hopefully this will make it possible for all of us from Zion's to again be able to stay at the same hotel.

The \$100 deposit is refundable but only before March 1, 2020. On March 1, 2020 a 35% deposit will be requested. Contact the hotel at that time to determine what that amount will be.

Roman Holiday Motel
1000 (10th) JFK Boulevard
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

Hotel Details: \$147: 1- Bedroom Efficiency Suite (sleeps 6/limit 6) This rate is a \$17 increase from the 2019 rate. Sales & occupancy taxes are 13.625%. There are no extra charges for additional persons –within the occupancy limit. Any families staying Thursday or Sunday Nights receive a \$25.00 discount for each night (does not include Friday or Saturday night). The discounts will be given upon check in or when paying the balance. The Thursday or Sunday discount was \$15.00 this year. Contact person is Janet Bird jbird75@comcast.net.



Unwanted Christmas Gifts or Cards? –

Bring them to church. The Basket Raffle-Auction committee is currently accepting those Christmas gifts and/or gift cards that you received and you really don't want or can't use. Please place them in the receptacle located in the gathering area. or you can give it to Deb Reiner or Steph Livingston.

Hospital Admissions

Please inform the church office when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility, or if there are changes in your health status. The federal HIPPA regulations do not permit health care providers to release personal information such as this without your expressed permission. Not all health care facilities have chaplains on staff to contact us about your admission. A phone call to the church office at 717-865-2848, will help us to respond to you with pastoral care for a time of change in your life.

Mission Ministry, (formerly Evangelism)

Chair: Elaine Ludwig (eludadvo@comcast.net; 865-3757)

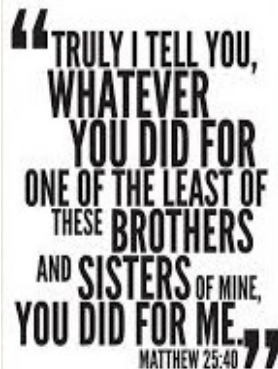
Lebanon County Christian Ministries

(LCCM) Wish List:

COATS -- ALL SIZES, MEN'S, WOMEN'S, BOY'S AND GIRL'S

BLANKETS - TWIN, FULL, QUEEN, & KING

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



Jonestown Outreach pantrY (JOY)

Wish List:

Canned Potatoes, Canned Lima Beans, Canned Meats, Noodles, Beef Stew, Spam, Soup.

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

Lent 2020: Caring for Creation



This Lent, our congregation will be focusing on the gift of creation that God has entrusted to our care. We'll hear in worship about the beauty and majesty of creation, and what it teaches us about God. We'll also hear stories where Jesus uses images from nature to teach us about the Kingdom of God, and times where the prophets call us to care for the earth. Our Mission Ministry team will be sharing a variety of ways we can change our everyday practices to do a *better* job of listening to creation and caring for these natural resources God has provided for us. We'll have more information in next month's newsletter, but wanted to make you aware of one project we'll be offering to both care for the earth AND help our Youth group raise funds for next summer's trip.

Old electronics cluttering up your closets? Bring your used phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, ink cartridges, and electronic accessories (like keyboards and mice) to church! (And yes, they can even be broken!) The youth group is collecting these items as part of a recycling fundraiser-- your donation will turn into cash for the youth group's 2021 trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering AND keep these electronics from going to the landfill, where they can cause all sorts of problems. Please place your electronics in the labeled box in the Gathering Area. See Joanna Guldin-Noll if you have questions.

Worship

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

As you read above, our Lenten focus will be care for creation. In each Sunday's Gospel story, we'll hear how an encounter with God changes someone's life, and consider how the same is true in our lives. Our Wednesday night prayer services (beginning at 7 PM) will center on the hymn "For the beauty of the earth", and feature a member of our congregation sharing how God meets them in nature, and how they, in turn, try to listen to the stories of creation and care for creation.



Ash Wednesday Worship will be held on Wednesday, February 26

Noon - a short, spoken liturgy

6:15 PM - an interactive service in the Social Hall

7:00 PM - traditional liturgy with choir

Youth Group Leaders: Pastor Caitlin and Joanna Guldin-Noll
 pastorckurtz@gmail.com joanna.guldin@gmail.com



February - Preliminary interest for Gathering due this month
 Feb. 2: After-Church Small Group Bible Study
 Feb. 16: Minute to Win It & Zion's Bake Off (game and fundraiser—everyone invited!), 6:30-8:30 PM
 March 8: Small Group Bible Study, Dinner, & Movie, 5 PM

Zion's Youth Starring in "The Wizard of Oz" A number of our youth and children are participating in Northern Lebanon's Spring Musical: The Wizard of Oz. We invite you to support them by attending a show! Participants are: Maddie Hess, Kenzie Hess, Joe Beidler, Becca Hoffer, and Gracie Bucks. Show times are Monday March 9 at 1 PM, Thursday March 12 at 7 PM, Friday March 13 at 7 PM, Saturday March 14 at 7 PM and Sunday March 15 at 1 PM. For tickets, please contact the school office 717-865-0541.



Anyone Hersheypark Happy?

Discount Hersheypark tickets orders will be taken through **March 15**. Payment is not needed until the tickets are received. The group discount prices are less than offered by Giant or AAA. Plan ahead and save money. Fill out the order form and give to Janet Bird, place in her church mailbox, mail to her at P.O. Box 75, Jonestown, PA 17038, or e-mail the order to jbird75@comcast.net so that it is received by **Sunday, March 15**. The tickets are good for any one day of the May through September 2020 park season. If you have questions, contact Janet Bird at 865-5636.

\$36.95 All Tickets **This price is because we are placing the order in March**
 Saving (\$15 for ages 3 to 8 and ages 62+) Saving (\$38 for ages 9 to 61)

Name _____

Total Tickets _____

Address _____

Total \$ _____

email _____

phone _____

By presenting your pre-purchased ticket you can visit HERSHEY PARK for 2 ½ hours prior to closing FREE on any evening prior to your visit.
 (3 ½ hours FREE when HERSHEY PARK closes at 11 PM.)



February 2020



SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 9:15 ALL CHURCH 10:30 Worship Youth gp. After worship	3	4	5 5:30 Family meal 6:15 REJOICING SPIRITS 6:50 Bible Study/Youth Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	6	7	1 8 8:00 am Men's Bible study
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 7:00 pm Worship & Music mtg.	11	12 5:30 Family meal 6:15 REJOICING SPIRITS 6:50 Bible Study/Youth Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	13 12:30 Lunch bunch 7:00 Women's Bible Study	14	15
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 pm - Bake off/Game night	17 7 PM Church Council NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18	19 5:30 Family meal 6:15 REJOICING SPIRITS 6:50 Bible Study/Youth Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	Bulletin deadline is every Tuesday		
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24	25	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon, 6:15 pm & 7:00 pm. (see below) 5:30 family meal (no Bible Study or choirs) 6:50 Kings Kids	27	28	29

Ash Wednesday Services:

Noon - A spoken word service will be held in the sanctuary

6:15 pm - A Special Rejoicing Spirits Lenten Worship

7:00 pm - Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship, in the sanctuary

Hope you are able to join us at any or all of the Ash Wednesday services as we enter the Lenten season!



Worship Participants for February

	Lector	Crucifer	Children's sermons	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Counters	Prayers of the People
2	Stephanie Harmon	Daryl Hess	Noel Strattan	Madison Hess MacKenzie Hess	John Mohn Jr. Linda Toth	Larry & Sharon Houser	Matt Wolfe
9	Sharon Houser	Joanna Guldin-Noll	Terry Ludwig	Cassie Bortz Daryl Root	John Mohn Jr. Linda Toth	Kerri Price	Briand Adams
16	Darryl Bush	Zoe Menzel	Brian Adams	Xander McQuaide Zoe Menzel	Deb Long Terry Ludwig	Deb Reiner	Cassie Bortz
23	Kerri Price	Madison Hess	Laurie Gill	Mason Livingston Kolby Brightbill	Deb Long Terry Ludwig	Kelly Rittle Deb Long	Monica Bortz
26	Elaine Ludwig				Linda Wenrich Noel Strattan		

Altar Guild	Elevette Operator	Ushers	Getting to know you time - Feb. 2
2, 9 Bortz family 16,23 Bucks family 26 Jen Boisvert, Noel Strattan	2 - Tom Frey, 9 - Logan Livingston 16 - Mike Sease, 23 - Jim Adams	Tom Keefer, Linda Wenrich Georgetta Wolfe, Daryl Hess	Kings Kids/Mutual Ministry