

Zion Lutheran Church

Cadillac, Michigan



Zion Lutheran is dedicated to loving and living
the word of God.

A Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear siblings in Christ,

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. As communities of Jesus that nurture life changing relationships with God, one another and the world, we are confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. Whether worshiping wherever two or more are gathered, engaging in lively conversations about faith, or rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, we strive to share God's grace and love in Christ for all people and creation. This reflects the vitality we find in Jesus Christ, our own spiritual life and our desire to participate in what God is doing today.

Within each community of Jesus there are leaders who strive to model an attitude of servanthood, trustworthiness, humility, patience and listening first while striving to work with others in healthy ways. These leaders teach all ages, motivate believers, build consensus, share a vision, discern direction and facilitate action. Their attention is focused on growing disciples who are sent into their daily life to love and serve others as friends, neighbors, parents, citizens and workers. Together we recognize the importance of growing disciples and multiplying leaders who serve inside your congregation and beyond your walls.

As our congregations plan their work for the coming year and how to use the resources God has entrusted to them, I invite you all to think about the relationships that bring you vitality and the leaders you nurture for God's mission in the world. While you make many decisions, remember you are not alone. We are all partners in sharing the gospel. Together, by God's grace, we can do what God is calling us to. May you go forth to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Serving together in Christ's name,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

You shall love the Lord your God with all our heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and
with all your strength. Mark 12:30

Litany

L Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing,
may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with each of you.

C And also with you.

L Teach us, O Lord, to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

C Lord in your name we pray.

L Descend on our hearts, O Lord, that we may love others in the way Jesus loves us.

C Christ in your name we pray.

L Empower us, O Lord, to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

C Lord in your name we pray.

L Move us, O Lord, to engage issues in our community in Christ-like ways,
and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those we serve and partner.

C Jesus in your name we pray.

L Strengthen us, O Lord, to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work,
learning to work with others although we may not agree.

C Lord in your name we pray.

L Give us, O Lord, the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in
the neighborhoods we serve.

C Christ in your name we pray.

L Guide us, O Lord, to be a healthy congregation that learns from our failures as well as our
successes and offers wisdom to others.

C Lord in your name we pray.

L Let us pray. As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, help us to grow leaders
who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's
indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Help us to take a fresh
look at our baptism each day so we may discover vitality in our relationship with you, each other
and those we serve in the world.

C Amen.



FROM THE PASTOR

We are ending the year of 2018 on a roll, so to speak. Worship attendance has shot up this fall and winter. Giving is beyond what any of us expected when 2018 began. Val was amazed at the amount of folks who have stepped forward to serve by way of the “Time and Talents” sheets. There is a healthy energy and vibrancy to this place. Some of this is because of our faithful leaders planning well. All of it is by way of the Spirit’s work in and among us.

In 2018 we said “thank you” to Marilyn Bridges who served this congregation faithfully as Parish Administrator for 30 years. A group of visionaries gathered a few years ago to try and figure out what Marilyn’s (eventual) retirement would mean and how the staffing of Zion should be configured. By the time this group was finished, there were 2 clear job descriptions: one for an office manager position that we’d be hiring for, and one for the ministries coordinator position that Val occupies. Council created a group to develop a hiring process for the Office Manager position. We had an outstanding response of applicants. At the end of the day it was clear that one had the experience and qualities that would best meet Zion’s vision. Jane Wightman began working with Marilyn at the end of April, so that when Marilyn retired at the end of May, Jane was as prepared as possible. Thanks to Marilyn’s training, and Val’s support, Jane has hit the ground running. Zion’s leaders and the Spirit’s provision have our staffing situation in a strong place.

I have also watched Val live more fully into her role of ministries coordinator. Through the vision of Zion’s leaders, and Val’s faithfulness, the Ministries Coordinator position is doing exactly what we hoped it would do. Zion is an easy place to serve. Val ensures no one is working alone, that someone is there for support when necessary, and that the needs of the congregation are met by the skills and gifts of those connected to Zion.

Thanks to Zion’s leaders and the Spirit’s provisions, Zion’s committees and volunteers are humming along.

We said “thank you” to the choir during the month of May. After several years of discernment, the choir realized it couldn’t go on as it had before. This was a hard decision for choir members, and led to much uncertainty for the music ministry of Zion going forward. The commitment of Zion’s leaders was to continue making opportunities available for folks to provide special music and to connect those with musical leadership skills with our musicians. Jim Schoensee began worshipping here with Linda McMartin. Jim is a retired band teacher. He offered to help out the folks who were gathering as an ensemble. A few additional people with gifts in singing

connected to the ensemble. We now have an ensemble that sings a couple of times a month and at some special services. The willingness of former choir members to hang in there and keep singing, combined with Zion's leaders continuing to encourage music leaders to come forward and the Spirit's provisions in sending the right people at the right time, have us once again finding our song.

This is all a really long way of saying, "thank you" to all of you who help make Zion such a special place. From those who serve on Sundays, to those who provide funeral luncheons, to those who care for the youngest among us, to those who worship as consistently as possible, to those who visit our homebound, to those who serve at coffee hour, thank you. Thank you to our organists: Joanne, Susan (who retired at the end of December), and Carolyn. Thank you to our accompanist: Marty Solomon. Thank you to our office staff: Jane and Val. Thank you to our Kids Hope Director: Beckie Kanipe. Thank you to our congregation council and committees who help give direction and vision to Zion.

The strengthening of Zion's ministry continues to have ripple effects throughout our community and throughout the world that God so loves. The wisdom and work of our leadership and staff has allowed me personally to spend more time outside of the congregation's walls. Over the past year I helped coach 4th-6th grade girls basketball at St. Ann's school. During the months of November and December I spent time helping the 7th grade boys basketball team. I participated in the YMCA fundraiser, "Dancing with the Y Stars" in October. What a wildly fun event that turned out to be! I am Vice President of the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association. I am leading a peer preaching group on behalf of Calvin Seminary that has brought together 5 Lutheran pastors from northern Michigan and 5 pastors of different denominations from the Cadillac area to reflect on the task of preaching.

While these things are fun for me, my hope is that they are seen by Zion as an extension of our ministry together: caring about kids (whether from Zion or not), caring about an area organization like the YMCA, partnering with other area pastors in unity for the sake of God's world. These things may bring more people to know Zion. Just as important, these things provide care for the kinds of people God would have us work on behalf of. Thank you for the privilege of becoming even more part of the community.

I am convinced our ministry is to create the kind of church that spills over into love and care for others in our everyday pursuits. In some ways, I'm just finding my footing with this task. But so many of you through your volunteering, your work on boards, in your occupations, in your families, in your friendships, and with your gifts and passions make such a difference for the sake of the community and world that God so loves. Thank you for your witness. And thank you for making Zion such a pleasure to serve.

Blessed to be your pastor,
Pr. Scott

Ministry Statistics



Weddings

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Stephen Earl Nowland and Amanda Jean Winkel	July 20, 2018
Jacob Jeffrey Geeseman and Hayley Kristin Allen	July 21, 2018



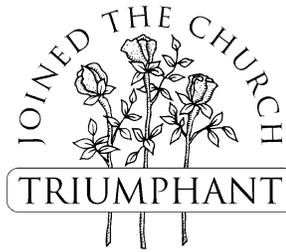
Baptized Youth Who Were Confirmed - October 28, 2018

Kaitlyn Johnston	Gwen Phillips
Benjamin Kohler	Katherine Runstrom
Gavin Phillips	Hanisi Smith

Baptisms - Child

<u>Name</u>	<u>Baptismal Date</u>
Emsley Alexis Blank	January 7, 2018
Noah Benjamin Blank	January 7, 2018
Jacob Miles Green	January 7, 2018
Parker Lee Green	January 7, 2018
Averie Marie Winkel	May 13, 2018
Liam Paul Johnston	June 3, 2018
Rylen Marie Runyon	June 17, 2018
Gavin Lee Nowland	November 18, 2018
Dragann Wayne Pancake	November 25, 2018





Funerals

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Alfreda S.M. Abbot	February 5, 2018	100
Emma I. Butler	July 1, 2018	95
Frank G. Dickson	September 21, 2018	66
Wilda J. Hillman	January 20, 2018	95
Carl A. Rydquist	June 6, 2018	89
Mary E. Streff	September 13, 2018	66
William J. Taylor, Sr	November 13, 2018	70
Cheryl L. Walker	January 7, 2018	58
Kenneth L. Whaley	June 24, 2018	90
Leonard W. Wright	January 14, 2018	88

Deaths (No Funeral or Funeral not held at Zion)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Walter James Filak	October 28, 2018	73

Services - Non-Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Ketha J. Beckstrom	May 3, 2018	92
Debra R. Podbilski	July 24, 2018	64

Committals - Non-Member

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Service</u>
Eldon Braley	June 2, 2018
Doris Braley	June 2, 2018
Sandra K. Hagstrom	August 8, 2018
Lois A. Hagstrom	August 8, 2018

Membership Statistics 2018



	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
<u>Membership Accessions:</u>		
By Child Baptism (under 16 years of age)	9	-
By Adult Baptism (16 years and older)	-	-
By Affirmation of Faith	-	14
By Confirmation	-	-
By Transfer	-	<u>4</u>
 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ACCESSIONS:	 9	 18
 BAPTIZED YOUTH WHO WERE CONFIRMED:	 <u> </u>	 <u>6</u>
Subtotal	9	24
 <u>Membership Decreases:</u>		
By Death	0	10
By Transfer	0	0
Other	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DECREASES:	2	15
 NET CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP:	 7	 9

MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Confirmed Membership	357	358	372	346	355
Non-Confirmed Membership	<u>56</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>76</u>
 TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP:	 413	 413	 441	 415	 431

Usher's Report



ATTENDANCE

Yearly Attendance Data

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Year's Attendance	9,488	8,877	9,233	9,202	8,990
Average Per Sunday	183	171	178	177	177
Lenten Service Average	86	86	83	90	84
Total Easter Attendance	401	339	348	336	327
Total Christmas Eve Attendance	336	309	353	292	354
Confirmed Members Communing at Least Once	310 86%	297 82%	322 86%	310 89%	307 86%
Non-confirmed Members Communing at Least Once	26 46%	17 30%	18 26%	54 78%	38 50%
Confirmed Members Communing & Contributing	286 80%	292 81%	278 74%	270 80%	283 80%

⁽¹⁾ Percentages are number in relationship to total membership in that category.



Ministries Coordinator's Report

The role of Ministry Coordinator continued to develop in 2018. Nevertheless, the third year of serving as ministry coordinator was a year in which I started to feel more knowledgeable, settled, and confident in this relatively new position. The year brought much to be thankful for as we continue to serve in ministry together at Zion.

Joys of 2018 included:

1. The transition in the office from veteran Parish Administrator to a new Office Manager went smoothly due to Marilyn's thoughtful preparation, Jane's competency, and the congregation's support.
2. The work of our committees and volunteers continued faithfully; it was a pleasure to support them in their work.
3. A small group met for six weeks in the summer, with the goal of fostering relationships and connections. Those who attended felt the time was well spent.
4. Our youth groups began being supported by a new group of volunteers that provide weekly meals for meetings.
5. 31 members volunteered to serve in new ways during the 2018 Stewardship Campaign.
6. The Zion website was visited by over 500 unique visitors each month in 2018.

Ministry Coordinator Goals for 2019:

1. Work to foster connections between individuals and our ministries as well as our Zion community.
2. Work with committees to review ministry goals.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as Zion's Ministries Coordinator. Working with Pastor Scott, Jane, committees, and individuals continues to help me grow in service and leadership skills. I am looking forward to discovering where God will lead us together in 2019!

In His Service,
Val Hanson

Nominating Committee Report

The 2018 Nominating Committee, in accordance with their responsibilities, submits the following slate of nominees for the Congregational Council, 2019 Nominating Committee, and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Convener, Heidi Fenner

Curt Brackenrich, Marilyn Bridges, Bob Harcourt, Colleen Luhtanen, Penny Stange

ELECTIONS

Council

Three-Year Term (February 2019 - January 2022)

Roger Pitts (second term)

Lee Jones

Hanisi Smith

TBD

Two and One Half Year Term (completion of Jason Helm's Feb 2018-Jan 2021 Term):

Amanda Hilt

2019 Nominating Committee

Rod Gibbs

Kathi Kohler

Marilyn Bridges (gone October)

Colin Campbell

Marie Mercier

TBD

2019 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Delegates

Dan Vantkerkhoff

Peggy Vantkerkhoff





Education, Youth and Faith Webbing

In August, we welcomed about 23 youth for a week of Vacation Bible School. The theme was “Rolling River Rampage.” The children learned as they passed through the waters, God will always be with them. They had a great week exploring Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks and music.

Our Rally Day, in September, brought our youth back to classes and groups after the summer break. The youth were entertained by Clark the Juggler. After the 10:30 service, Clark performed his tricks for the congregation as they enjoyed a yummy taco bar. We welcomed a couple new teachers to our Sunday School team this fall, and they are doing a wonderful job with our students. Our students enjoy following the Deep Blue Sunday School program.

Zion is blessed to have two youth groups. The Junior High Youth Group (5th-8th grade) is led by Amanda Hilt. This group gathers twice a month for games, conversation, and service. 16 youth attended camp over the summer and six 6th-8th graders attended “Charge,” an event over spring break for 6th-8th graders, full of worship, learning, and fun. The High School Youth Group (9th-12th grade) continues to gather twice a month, led by Dan Smith. They participated in two karaoke nights and are known for their ability to make fun at the drop of a hat. 9 high school youth and 2 adults traveled to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston this past summer where they gathered each evening with 30,000 other Lutherans. They also participated in a day of service in Houston and donated over \$600 worth of books to kids in the Houston school district.

Confirmation is for 8th and 9th graders seeking to learn more about their faith and ending with an Affirmation of Baptism Sunday. This year 6 10th graders confirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday. Many of these 6 have found ways to be more deeply connected to the life of the church.

We are looking forward to 2019 with our youth. Thank you to the congregation for all your support!

Education Committee Members:

Co-Chairpersons: Heidi Fenner and Jen Mazza

Committee Members: Val Hanson and Helen Potter (Council)

Education Committee Members, continued

Confirmation: Pastor Scott

Sunday School Teachers: Liz Becketl, Melissa Benzenberg, Kylee Cleveland, Kip and Alicia Damgard, Jennifer Freeman, Jeri LaRocque, Jen Mazza, Helen Potter, Jacqu Runyon, and Lindsey Torkko

Youth Leaders: Amanda Hilt and Dan Smith



Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee continues to reach out to Zion members and nonmembers sharing and demonstrating our dedication to loving and living the word of God. Our committee members completed 102 homebound visits, distributed 11 prayer shawls, and sent 150 cards to care and connect with visitors and members. 100 olive wood crosses were given during Lent. There were 176 items donated to Oasis and War Memorial Hospital through our baby layette ministry. Baptismal birthdays were honored through the gifting of blankets and Bibles.

Between November 2017 and October 2018, 1,957 items were delivered to the King's Storehouse Food Pantry. We continue to reach out to the community through weekly ads in the Cadillac News and providing "The Lutheran" magazine to the public library. We also began providing the "Gather" magazine to our Zion church library.

If your heart is leading you to join us in demonstrating the love of God through the work of our committee, we would love to have you join us. Thank you to all who provided items to the Evangelism ministries. The giving of your time and gifts is appreciated by so many.

Evangelism Committee Members:

Co-Chairpersons: Sue Anderson and Marilyn Pratt

Bobbie Brown, Lee Brown, Linda Dishman, Gail Downey, Valerie Hanson, Bob Harcourt, Joan Higgins, Jeri LaRocque, Allen Meyer, Diane Newman, Phil Patzer, Ruth Patzer, Marty Solomon, Sherrie Stafford, and Louise Wright

Assisting with shut-in visitations:

Marilyn Bridges, Karlene Paffhouse



Fellowship Committee

In 2018, the Fellowship Committee continued to offer opportunities for the Zion family to get together for some fun. Winter and spring fellowship events included a movie night and a bowling and pizza outing. Throughout the summer, we offered a weekly small group experience. Those who attended felt it was worth repeating or expanding in the future. In August, a group of 22 enjoyed rafting and picnicking together. During the fall, we hosted the Rally Day taco bar and a golf scramble.

Throughout the year, the Committee has been happy to support the Saturday Soup for Seniors and the children's fellowship events. Both have been highly successful, and we thank the many congregation members who help make them happen. The Saturday Soup events have provided about 18-22 seniors each month with a time of fellowship and a delicious meal. The children's Egg Hunt helped us reach out to our community by involving approximately 40 children, many of which were not members. In addition, volunteers treated community children on Halloween with our Trunk or Treat.

Our committee plans to continue hosting quarterly events and explore new ways to offer small groups. We are looking for suggestions from the congregation in regards to ideas for activities. We wish to thank the many congregation members who help take care of the kitchen and host coffee hour following worship. Last of all, we are hoping to see many of our congregation members attend fellowship activities and grow in relationship together during 2019.

The Fellowship Committee

Chairperson: Roger Pitts

Marilyn Bridges, Jennifer Freeman, Rod Gibbs, Nancy Grumm, Val Hanson, Beckie Kanipe, Rhonda Pitts



The year-end income and expense financial report and balance sheet, as submitted by our Treasurer Pam Dahlstrom, follows on the next six pages.

2018 Finance Committee:

Chairperson/Treasurer: Pam Dahlstrom

Committee Members: Joe Bielik, Woodie Durham, Carolyn Emerson, Jim Higgins,
Phil Kuusisto, and Allen Meyer

To receive a copy of year-end financial report, please contact the church office.

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We had “snow” much fun at our winter activity at the beginning of the year. “*The good times rolled*” at our annual bowling party at the Pines. Of course, we had pizza and pop and a lot of high fives.

Then came our end of the year party in May. “*We had a popping good time.*” We played games that had popping action involved. Mrs. Paulen, the principal said a nice thank you to the mentors. We honored the two students moving on to Mackinaw Trail Middle School in the fall. Goodbyes are sooo hard, but this is what we have been working for. We exchanged gifts and made a tunnel for the graduates to run through as we cheered.

We have grown and expanded our mentoring program at Forest View in 2018. The Cherry Grove Nazarene Church teamed up with us in the fall. We “*raked up*” some more good memories with a back to school party at the school. Games were played inside and outside.

Our Christmas Program included entertainment by Clark the Juggler. “*Excitement was in the air!*” A small Christmas gift was given to the students by the mentors during their mentoring hour.

I am looking forward to 2019.

Beckie Kanipe
Kids Hope Director





Library Committee

This past year the Library Committee was able to purchase some new books. Those books, along with others donated to the library from congregation members made it possible to enrich our collection with some very pleasant and interesting reads. Our hope is that you will continue to peruse the books featured in the alcove and consider giving them a try. Checkouts have improved this year which is a good thing.

During the coming year we're hoping to get some "behind the scene" things done that we were unable to do because of sporadic attendance at meetings.

Respectfully,
The Library Committee

The Library Committee Members:

Co-Chairpersons: Patti Swanson and Sue Ann Traviss

Committee Members: Lavonne Emmons, Val Hanson, Melissa Sjogren, Sherry Stafford and Barb Taylor



Outreach Committee

The mission of the Outreach Committee is: "To share the love of God by helping those in need." This past year the Outreach Committee accomplished our mission through several ongoing activities. We continued the Noisy Offerings, which are collected at the end of each month. Your generosity, in supporting these monthly collections, provided much needed help for both local and worldwide organizations. Your support of these monthly collections helped alleviate hunger, provided assistance to disaster relief, provided help to the homeless, and supported those in shelters. Collections also helped support our Zion Stitchery Group and our Socks and Underwear Ministry.

Tending one of the flower gardens along the Keith McKellop Walkway is one of our ongoing "God's Work, Our Hands" ministries. We also help those in our community trying to escape homelessness by providing money for bus passes and supplying blessing bags/baskets.

In the upcoming year, we will continue the monthly Noisy Offering collections. This is a simple, but important, way to provide support to various organizations here locally and throughout the world. We will continue our Socks and Underwear Ministry, tending the flower garden, providing bus passes for the homeless and supplying blessing bags/baskets to those escaping homelessness.

If you have a suggestion of ways to share God's love with those in need, we welcome your input. We would also welcome anyone wanting to join our committee. We meet the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Outreach Committee:

Chairperson: Barb Taylor

Marilyn Bridges, Lois Durham, Shirley Gibelyou, Marie Mercier, Kathy Gullekson, Sue Smith, Patti Swanson, Val Hanson



Socks & Underwear Ministry

Our ongoing Socks and Underwear Ministry meets the needs of those in our local community on a monthly basis by providing underwear and socks. The money from our annual October Craft Fair booth and table rentals along with bake sale profits is used for the Socks and Underwear Ministry. This year's Craft Fair and bake sale raised almost \$990. Our awesome Zion bakers came through, as always, and our bake sale alone raised \$508. In addition, we participate annually at Project Christmas which serves thousands in our local community.

Thanks to the generous Zion congregation, the Socks and Underwear Ministry helped many needy families in our community this year. Gloria Kern who is in charge of our monthly distribution, gave socks and underwear to several families each month.

Project Christmas was held Saturday, December 8. 894 families from within the Wexford and Missaukee counties were expected to attend, and 2,919 adults and children were helped. We gave out nearly 3,500 items during the event. We had 53 members of our congregation help with Project Christmas, and many more helped with their contributions.

We plan to continue a monthly distribution, and continue our involvement in Project Christmas. We would like to get more members of congregation involved in this very important outreach program. Thanks to the many volunteers and generous donations from the congregation this ministry continues to be highly successful.

Coordinator: Lois Durham

Stitchery Group

The Stitchery Group meets year round at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday each month. Our mission is to provide quilts, crib quilts and lap robes for the less fortunate in our community. There are no special requirements other than selecting an activity, such as cutting blocks, sewing the blocks together, or tacking the blocks to the lining and backing to complete the quilt. Anyone interested in joining the group would be warmly welcomed.



In 2018, the Stitchery Group distributed the following:

- Samaritas - 31 lap robes
- Human Services - 5 quilts and 4 pair pillow cases
- OASIS - 5 quilts and 4 pair of pillow cases
- Council on Aging - 5 quilts and 4 pair of pillow cases
- Project Christmas - 5 quilts and 4 pair of pillow cases
- New Hope Men's Shelter - 5 quilts and 1 blanket
- New Hope Women's Shelter - 5 quilts and 4 pair of pillow cases
- Green Acres Retirement Living - 5 quilts and 4 pair of pillow cases
- Veterans Organization - 3 quilts
- Reserved for emergency - 5 quilts



This came to a total of 43 quilts, 31 lap robes, 24 pairs of pillow cases and 1 blanket.



Each year, the Stitchery Group assembles an artificial Christmas tree that is placed in the Fellowship Hall, for the purpose of displaying a collection of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and headbands (either homemade or store brought) donated by the congregation. At the first meeting in January 2019, these donations were sorted, packaged, and distributed to the following elementary schools: Franklin, Lincoln, Kenwood and Forest View for children in need.

With the generous support of the congregation, Stitchery was able to deliver the following items in 2019 from the 2018 Mitten Tree.

Hats - 62

Gloves and Mittens - 44 pairs

Scarves - 12

Headbands - 103

Sets - 6



Respectfully submitted,
Zion Stitchery Group, Virginia Wicklund



Property Committee

The Property Committee continues to coordinate tasks to ensure the normal operating maintenance of our church and grounds, including lawn mowing, lighting, snow removal, equipment purchasing and maintenance, cleaning of the carpets, and more.

This past year we purchased a new riding lawn mower and installed new church sign. The big task before us now is replacement of the parking lot. It was re-surfaced in 2011, but we now have several areas that are cracked with grass growing up. The longer we put this off, the worse it will get so it will be something that needs attention in the very near future.

Property Committee Members:

Chairperson: George Cochrane

Committee Members:

Greg Anderson, Harold Carson, Woodie Durham, Jim Higgins, Jeff Johnson, Mick McDonald, and Jerry Pratt



Hobart Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Care

The Hobart Cemetery committee held several work bees at the cemetery this year. 2018 activities included:

- Brush was cleaned up in the spring and after the August storm.
- The over growth in Lot 27 was cleaned up.
- All 4 dead ash trees along the road edge of the cemetery have been taken down.
- There were 2 interments and 1 lot purchase in 2018.

Roger Pitts and Randy Mercier are interim committee co-chairs, and current contacts for the cemetery. The Hobart Cemetery Committee needs a permanent chair and co-chair to replace Roger and Randy. Interested persons may ask any committee member for information on what this would involve.

Hobart Cemetery Committee: Co-Chairpersons: Randy Mercier and Roger Pitts

Committee Members: Greg Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Sue Anderson, Paula Campbell, Rod Gibbs, Val Hanson, and Sherry Stafford



Stewardship Committee

In 2018, it was our joy to present a Jeopardy Skit to the congregation in an effort to illustrate the idea of incorporating stewardship into all aspects of our lives including financial, physical and spiritual health, environmental care, and our relationships with others.

A survey was sent to members to determine areas of stewardship in which individuals hoped to grow and gifts each could share. We also coordinated the making of a video that highlighted what is unique about Zion with an emphasis on how we go about “living and loving the word of God.”

Our work this year culminated with The Walk Through Zion and the annual Stewardship Campaign. We were very thankful to have approximately 20 members from various ministries present the work of their committee or group to those who toured Zion. It was very energizing for all who participated.

In 2019, we are hoping to provide more opportunities for education in the areas of Stewardship that congregation members expressed an interest in developing.

Stewardship Committee:

Kathy Gullekson, Val Hanson, and Jeri LaRocque



Worship Committee

Worship at Zion continues to try new things and grow. Pastor Scott’s fall sermon series “Loved” was accompanied by Loved T-shirts for all. The Evangelism committee made sure T-shirts even went to our members who are no longer able to attend due to health or distance. This was a meaningful way to help everyone feel part of our community. The Thanksgiving service had a different format and included a ‘dwelling in the word’ sermon as we continue to try new ways to enhance worship.

Zion’s choir retired from their long time weekly winter schedule this spring. However groups and individuals have continued to bless our worship with special music from time to time. Many thanks to each of you, your musical contributions are very appreciated. At the end of 2018, Susan Yakimovich retired as one of Zion’s organists. Susan, thank you for all the faithful years of leading us in worship!

Finally, we are grateful to the schedulers and the many volunteers who support our worship at Zion. Greeters and ushers, acolytes and lectors, sound techs and musicians, altar guild and communion assistants, thank you for your service!

Worship & Music Committee: Committee Members: Nancy Anderson, Paula Campbell, Joanne Carlson, Randy Mercier, and Susan Yakimovich



REPORT

2018 Audit Committee:

Amy Gibbs (2018 - 2022)

Lee Brown (2018 - 2021)

Chris Bruggema (2018 - 2023)

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge, with appreciation and thankfulness to God, the service of our retiring Congregation Council members Pam Dahlstrom, Rod Gibbs, and Kathi Kohler. We also acknowledge with appreciation and thankfulness to God our retired Parish Administrator, Marilyn Bridges, and our retired organist, Susan Yakimovich, for their many years of faithful service.

We acknowledge, with appreciation and thankfulness to God, the ministry of all those who volunteered their time and talents to serve in the five areas of Zion's ministry: Education, Worship, Witness, Service, and Support. We also acknowledge with appreciation and thankfulness to God the work of all who serve on our church committees and subcommittees.

We acknowledge, with appreciation and thankfulness to God, the guidance and the dedication of our 2018 paid staff: Marilyn Bridges, Jane Wightman, Joanne Carlson, Heather Dietz, Valerie Hanson, Beckie Kanipe, Carolyn Lucas, Martha Solomon, Betty Truitt, and Susan Yakimovich. We also express, with appreciation and thankfulness to God, the leadership and pastoral guidance given to us by Pastor Scott Torkko.

We also acknowledge with thankfulness our congregation's generosity in giving of their time, talent, and treasure on behalf of our church and the greater good of our world.

Bell Committee Update - Verbal Report



Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

The Zion Lutheran Church Constitution was modified in 2017 to bring it into compliance with the North/West Lower Michigan Synod's model constitution.

The revised Constitution was approved at the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting. It is presented again at this year's Annual Congregational Meeting, without change, for ratification by a two-thirds majority vote.

Disbursement of 2018 General Fund Balance Excess

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 2018 General Fund Balance (excess of income over expenses) be disbursed as follows:



To receive a copy of the disbursement of funds, please contact the church office.



2019 Capital Improvements Budget Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED: that the following items are approved as capital improvements for 2019 and, be it further resolved, that all expenditures are paid from the Reserve for Depreciation Account.

To receive a copy of the capital improvement budget, please contact the church office.

2019 Operating Budget Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED: that the proposed 2019 Operating Budget be adopted by the congregation.

Account	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
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To receive a copy of the 2019 operating budget, please contact the church office.