

# 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 friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, reflects the increasing support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

II Corinthians 5:17

# Litany

L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.

**C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.**

L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.

**C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.**

L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.

**C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.**

L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.**

L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?," may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.

**C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.**

L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.

**C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.**

L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.

**C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.**

L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

**C. Amen.**



# FROM THE PASTOR

It is appropriate to begin my annual report with “thank you’s” because all that we do here is in gratitude for what God has first done for us. Thank you to our staff: Val, Lori, Beckie, Joanne, Carolyn, Nailya, Marty. Thank you to the many folks who step forward to lead music, committees, council, and initiatives large and small that connect us with God, our neighbors, and each other. These are people we at Zion trust, depend upon, and ought to thank God for regularly. The reach of ministry in and thru Zion continues to astound me. Hungry people are fed through our partnership with local food pantries. People in need are helped thru our partnerships with places like Love in the Name of Christ and the Northern Michigan Community Action Agency. At risk elementary children at Forest View Elementary are befriended by way of our Kids Hope mentoring program. Our connections to our neighbors are many, they are strong, and they matter.

Zion continues to find ways to foster connection between members, as well. This is no small thing. These connections make it less likely that people are overlooked. When folks are connected with one another, the church is in a position to be the supportive place we are called to be. When a decision is made that is not popular with everyone, solid relationships help us hang in there with one another and allow us to give others the benefit of the doubt. Christian community gives us a place to learn, grow, challenge, and reflect. This continues to happen in spades at Zion: fellowship activities, small groups, book studies, the ensemble, committees, the funeral luncheon team...the list is endless.

It is all brought together in worship, the place that most directly connects us to God. It would be hard to overstate the importance of our worship life. Put simply, worship is what brings us together. Without worship Zion Lutheran Church is no longer Zion Lutheran Church. Being connected to each other in worship these days is our greatest opportunity and our greatest challenge. Our culture no longer supports Sunday morning worship the way it once did. We can no longer depend on employers, merchants, sports organizers, family, or friends to set aside Sunday morning for us. Practicing faith has cost American’s very little for a couple of hundred years, but the history of faith practice suggests this is the exception and not the rule. There is a general indifference to faith these days. The priority we give to connecting in worship has a lot to say about the health of Zion. My hope is that as you make decisions about your time, worship will not be a dispensable part of your week. My prayer is worship would be near the top of your list of important activities.

Connecting with our neighbors, connecting with each other, and connecting with God make up the ministry of Zion when we are at our best. I am convinced that fostering these three connections is central to my call among you at Zion.

This past summer the congregation council hosted Bishop Satterlee to discuss the gifts and challenges of providing a pastoral sabbatical. We heard the synod recommends a sabbatical for pastors take place once every 5 years. We heard the sabbatical has three foci: Rest, Renewal, and Research. The council ultimately extended a 3 month sabbatical to me that will begin April 13 and conclude July 5. The council has been diligent in their planning for this sabbatical period. The schedule of preachers has already been filled for all 12 weeks. Communion will happen on 10 of the 12 Sunday's thanks to a number of ELCA pastors who were available and willing to provide supply. I am in the midst of creating a list of pastors who will be available in case of a pastoral emergency. At a recent meeting the council began dividing tasks that need to be covered in my absence.

The concerns I've heard about sabbatical have generally revolved around giving and attendance. One wise council member has said it this way: if there is one thing we as congregation members CAN control during the sabbatical, it is whether or not we decide to show up for worship.

For my part, I see this concern as one that directly relates to our connectedness. The 12 week sabbatical is a great opportunity to grow in the connections you make with God, our neighbors, and each other thru Zion. My sense is the seriousness with which Zion lives out these connections in my absence will be directly proportionate to the impact the sabbatical will have on the congregation. Make no mistake about it: this sabbatical has as much potential for the congregation to grow together as it does in aiding my personal growth as a pastor and leader.

My time during the sabbatical will be spent in the three areas the Bishop mentioned. Lindsey and I have been granted a week at Holden Village in the state of Washington the last week of April. Holden is a special place full of lively conversation, visiting scholars and a multitude of activities, all located in a remote area. I plan to spend several days at the end of May at a retreat entitled, "Religion and the Common Good" hosted by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I plan to worship at 7-8 congregations that are doing something interesting with worship and then meet with the worship planning team to hear about how they harvest creativity in their worship planning. These activities will be built around a daily routine of exercise, reading, and catching up with family and friends. I'm hopeful that my return in July will be a new beginning of sorts, full of creativity and energy.

Thank you for these 10 years together. It has been a gift. The granting of this sabbatical has come at a time when I've sensed I need a break to refocus and reenergize. My prayer is the outcome of this sabbatical will be shared and significant ministry between us for the years to come.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott

# Ministry Statistics



## Weddings

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Linda McMartin and James Schoensee	July 20, 2019
Emily Oleniczake and Matt Thompson	September 1, 2019
Melanie Gerding and Raymond Vargas, Jr.	October 11, 2019



## Baptized Youth Who Were Confirmed - October 27, 2019

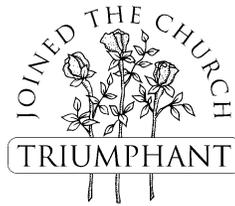
Kassidy M. McMartin  
Tucker A. Vandervelde  
Madeline L. Stange

## Baptisms - Child

<u>Name</u>	<u>Baptismal Date</u>
Ada Keller	February 17, 2019
Henrik Keller	February 17, 2019
Avrey Anderson	March 17, 2019
Griffin Neale Sikkema	December 29, 2019
Lettie Christine Sikkema	December 29, 2019



## Funerals



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Daniel Brian Cress	February 27, 2019	62
Gloria J. Anderson	July 22, 2019	90
Doris Oligney	August 14, 2019	92
Bruce L. Benson	October 26, 2019	81
Beverly Jean "Jeanne" Schultz	October 31, 2019	91
Irene E. Raab	November 13, 2019	83
Patricia Ruth Sjogren	December 19, 2019	90
Colin Bruce Campbell	December 29, 2019	81

## Committal - Member

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Service</u>	<u>Age</u>
Jack Arnie	August 19, 2019	79

## Services - Non-Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Natasha Ann Moffit	January 2, 2019	25
Deloris "Jean" Wittenstrom	January 21, 2019	89
Thomas John Mahalak	March 3, 2019	89
Raymond D. Hellowell	March 6, 2019	72
Gordon Bruce Kirvan	July 12, 2019	92
David James Johnston	November 25, 2019	56
Miranda Vivian Carol Duskin	December 10, 2019	40

## Committals - Non-Member

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Service</u>
Brian Mottor	July 4, 2019
Bruce Gregg	July 17, 2019
Beatrice Gregg	July 17, 2019
Beverly Terrian	August 24, 2019
Mary Ann Peterson	August 31, 2019

# Membership Statistics 2019



	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
<u>Membership Accessions:</u>		
By Child Baptism (under 16 years of age)	5	0
By Adult Baptism (16 years and older)	0	0
By Affirmation of Faith	0	10
By Confirmation	0	0
By Transfer	0	2
 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ACCESSIONS:	 5	 12
 BAPTIZED YOUTH WHO WERE CONFIRMED:	 0	 3
 Subtotal	 5	 15
 <u>Membership Decreases:</u>		
By Death	0	8
By Transfer	0	0
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DECREASES:	0	8
 NET CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP:	 5	 7

## MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total Confirmed Membership	358	372	346	355	361
Non-Confirmed Membership	<u>55</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>78</u>
 TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP:	 413	 441	 415	 431	 439

# Usher's Report



## ATTENDANCE

### Yearly Attendance Data

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Year's Attendance	8,877	9,233	9,202	8,990	8,326
Average Per Sunday	171	178	177	177	169
Lenten Service Average	86	83	90	84	82
Total Easter Attendance	339	348	336	327	361
Total Christmas Eve Attendance	309	353	292	354	330
Confirmed Members Communing at Least Once	297 82%	322 86%	310 89%	307 86%	303 84 %
Non-confirmed Members Communing at Least Once	17 30%	18 26%	54 78%	38 50%	40 51%
Confirmed Members Communing & Contributing	292 81%	278 74%	270 80%	283 80%	261 72%

<sup>(1)</sup> Percentages are number in relationship to total membership in that category.



## Ministries Coordinator's Report

The year was filled with new experiences in ministry, a second transition of church office managers, and much to be thankful for as we continue to serve together at Zion.

Joys of 2019 included:

1. The work of our committees and volunteers continued faithfully; it was a pleasure to support them in their work.
2. I had the privilege of leading four small groups for a seven week period this fall, with the goal of growing in understanding of interpreting the Bible and in relationship with one another. Two of those groups chose to continue meeting after the allotted time concluded.
3. 25 members volunteered to serve in new ways during the 2019 Stewardship Campaign.
4. Five new members were open to meeting with me to begin exploring ways they might feel connected at Zion.
5. Working with committees on ministry goals resulted in the Evangelism Committee rewriting their mission statement to make it more accurately reflect the work of their ministry.

Ministry Coordinator Goals for 2020:

1. Support all ministry of Zion in being intentional about connecting to God, each other, and the community by reviewing with committees the ways in which their work facilitates each type of connection.
2. Work to grow and strengthen the youth and faith webbing facets of the Education Committee by recruiting individuals to represent youth and faith webbing on the committee. Initiate regular quarterly meetings of this committee.
3. Serve as a member of the team that leads the congregation, maintains smooth operations, and continues ministry during Pastor Scott's sabbatical.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to serve as Zion's Ministries Coordinator. It is a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in this place. I am thankful to be surrounded by supportive and gifted people and that we are safe in God's hands as he leads us into 2020.

In His Service,

Val Hanson

# Nominating Committee Report

The 2019 Nominating Committee presents the following list of nominees for Council, North/West Lower Michigan Synod Delegates, and the 2020 Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted

2019 Nominating Committee Convener -  
Marilyn Bridges  
Rod Gibbs, Kathi Kohler, and Marie Mercier

## ELECTIONS

### COUNCIL

1-Year Term Ending in January 2021 Kaitlyn Johnston

2-Year Term Ending in January 2022 Barbara Hazlett, Abby Zukauski

3-Year Term Ending in January 2023 Jeanette Baumgras, Todd Bruggema, Pam Dahlstrom  
Jennifer Freeman

### NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD DELEGATES

Male Delegate: Lee Brown  
Alternate: Dan Vantkerkhoff  
Female Delegate: Bobbie Brown  
Alternate: Paula Campbell

### 2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chris Filak	Lynn Gullekson (retiring Council)
Kathi Kohler (2019-2020)	Marie Mercier (2019-2020)
Convener Marie Mercier	Helen Potter (retiring Council)



### **Education, Youth and Faith Webbing**



This summer, we welcomed about 23 youth for a week of Vacation Bible School. The theme was “To Mars and Beyond.” The children talked about “going beyond” with faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness, and hope. 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. Our Sunday School team returned to continue the work of sharing our faith with our children. This year we welcomed 3 high school students, who are serving as Sunday School assistants. 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) was led by Amanda Hilt in the spring and by Nikki Schultz this past fall. This group gathered 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 Kendra Vandervelde. 9 high school youth and 2 adults attended a mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin this past summer. The group worked in intergenerational centers, did manual labor at a farm that produced food for area pantries, and participated with other youth groups in worship and fun activities.

Confirmation is for 8th and 9th graders seeking to learn more about their faith and ending with an Affirmation of Baptism Sunday. This year 3 10th graders confirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday. Many of these 3 have found ways to be more deeply connected to the life of the church.

Adult education opportunities included a study on the Sunday texts between worship services. Pr. Scott led a study on the book, “Searching for Sunday” which took place at two different times and locations: on a weekday morning for 5 weeks and at Lakeside Charlie’s on 2 evenings.

We are looking forward to 2020 with our youth. Thank you to the congregation for all your support!!

#### Education Committee

Co-Chairpersons: Heidi Fenner and Jen Mazza

Committee Members: Val Hanson and Jamie Peterson (council)

Confirmation: Pastor Scott

Sunday School Assistants: Kaitlyn Johnston, Victoria Miller, and Katie Runstrom

Sunday School Teachers: Liz Bechtel, Melissa Benzenberg, Kip Damgard, Heidi Fenner, Jennifer Freeman, Jen Mazza, Amy Peterson, Val Hanson, and Lindsay Torkko

Youth Leaders: Nikki Schultz and Kendra Vandervelde



#### 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 104 homebound visits, distributed 14 prayer shawls, and sent 450 cards to care and connect with visitors and members. 165 olive wood crosses were given during Lent. There were 165 items donated to Oasis and War Memorial Hospital through our baby layette ministry. 13 gifts celebrating the first and second baptismal anniversaries were given.

Between November 2018 and October 2019, 1,551 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 provided

the “Gather” magazine to our Zion church library.

The Evangelism Committee reviewed our mission statement during 2019. We propose changing our mission statement to: **“The mission of the Evangelism Committee is loving and living the word of God through congregational care and membership support.”** We believe this mission statement reflects the work of our committee more accurately than the previous mission statement. The Congregational Council approved the change in mission statement on August 20, 2019.

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, Gail Downey, Valerie Hanson, Bob Harcourt, Joan Higgins, Jeri LaRocque, Allen Meyer, Diane Newman, Phil Patzer, Ruth Patzer, Marty Solomon, Sherry Stafford, and Louise Wright

Assisting with shut-in visitations:

Marilyn Bridges, Karlene Paffhouse

#### PROPOSED EVANGELISM MISSION STATEMENT CHANGE

Proposed Mission Statement:

The mission of the Evangelism Committee is loving and living the word of God through congregational care and membership support.

Current Mission Statement:

This congregation, relying on the Holy Spirit, shall proclaim the Gospel by example and by programs that invite all people to repent and share the Lord’s Kingdom. The congregation shall motivate its members to witness to their faith at every opportunity in daily life. It shall try to restore those who have lapsed from active membership, bring new members into the fellowship of the church, and recruit, equip, and support members of the congregation of the Gospel through fellowship in the wider Christian community. It shall make certain that other functions witness to the faith of the church.



## Fellowship Committee

In 2019, the Fellowship Committee offered many unique opportunities for the Zion family to get together for some fun. Our winter fellowship events included a Christmas Craft Day and a family game night, both had great participation. The children's Egg Hunt helped us reach out to our community by involving approximately 35 children. In May, we had a short hike planned but due to rainy weather we had to cancel, we do plan on trying again this spring. In August a group of congregation members enjoyed great weather while rafting and picnicking together on the Manistee River near Mesick. September was a busy fellowship month, we hosted the Rally Day taco bar and had about 80 people in attendance for the meal and a golf scramble the following weekend with 24 golfers. In October we hosted a Progressive Dinner and traveled to several houses around the community to enjoy friendship and good food! Church volunteers hosted Trunk or Treat again this Halloween. This year's event was moved inside due to weather and we saw many families come through and enjoy the warmth, festivities and treats that were handed out. Four small groups, involving a total of 25 participants, met weekly throughout September and October. The goals were to grow in relationship with each other and to facilitate in depth discussion of the video series "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible." Two of these small groups decided to continue meeting for further studies upon the completion of the series.

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 20-22 seniors each month with a time of fellowship and a delicious meal.

Our committee plans to continue hosting quarterly events and explore new ways to offer small groups. We are always looking for suggestions from the congregation in regards to ideas for activities. Some ideas we have proposed for 2020 are a drive-in movie night, spring hike, ice cream social, BBQ with games at Zion, bowling, bounce house fun and family game night. With Pastor Scott going on sabbatical in the spring/early summer, we are aiming to host at least 1 fellowship activity a month to help the congregation remain close and the sense of comradery remain strong during that time. We wish to thank the many congregation members who help take care of the kitchen and host coffee hour following worship. Lastly, we are looking forward to seeing many of our congregation members attend and help us grow our

fellowship activities together during 2020. Remember as the saying goes, the more the merrier!

The Fellowship Committee

Chairperson: Roger Pitts

Marilyn Bridges, Heather Dixon, Jennifer Freeman, Nancy Grumm, Scott Johns,  
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 seven pages.

2020 Finance Committee:

Chairperson/Treasurer: Pam Dahlstrom

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















## 2019 Kids Hope Memories

This is our second year teaming up with the Cherry Grove Nazarene Church to provide mentors, substitute mentors and prayer partners at Forest View School. The Nazarene Church has 11 students and we have 9. The staff is so welcoming and appreciative of all we do and provide. The best day of the week for the students is the day their mentor comes. I think the mentors enjoy the hour as much as the students.

Our after school activities this year have been the bowling and pizza party. This is usually held in March, but the students start talking about it long before. They want affirmation we will be having it again. Next was the end of the year party. This is both fun and sad. Sad because we have to say goodbye to the students moving on to Mac Trail. I have to keep telling myself "This is what we have been working for. I am not going to cry because it is over. I will smile because it is happening." Every ending has a new beginning. Next came the fall party and we met some new, excited students. The Christmas party came next. More fun and games and of course snacks.

"A mentor is someone who lets you see the hope within yourself." Oprah Winfrey  
Thank you to our congregation for supporting this ministry and stepping up when there is a need, such as snow pants, boots, mittens and hats.



Beckie Kanipe  
Kids Hope Director

### **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, provide assistance to disaster relief, provided help to the homeless, helped with the building of beds for children through the program Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and supported those in shelters. Collections also helped support the Carol Chickola layette ministry 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.

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Barb Taylor

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



**Socks & Underwear Ministry**

Our ongoing Socks and Underwear Ministry meets the needs of those in the community on a monthly basis by providing underwear and socks. The money from our annual October Craft Fair booth and table rentals and bake sale profits is used for the Socks and Underwear Ministry.

This year's Craft Fair and bake sale raised \$1,248. Our awesome Zion bakers came through, as always, and our bake sale alone raised \$624. We also received a grant from Thrivent Financial of \$250 that went toward the purchase of socks and underwear.

Thanks to the generous Zion congregation, the Socks and Underwear Ministry helped many needy families in our community this year. Monthly distributions gave socks and underwear to several families each month.

We also participate annually at Project Christmas. Project Christmas was held Saturday, December 7. 835 families from within the Wexford and Missaukee counties were expected to attend, and 2,581 adults and children were helped. We gave out over 5,550 items during the event. We had 47 members of our congregation help with Project Christmas, and many more helped with their generous donations. We plan to continue a monthly distribution, and continue our involvement in Project Christmas.

This year we welcomed Kathy Gullekson as co-coordinator of the Socks and Underwear Ministry. One of our future goals is to get more members of Zion 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.

Co-Coordinators: Lois Durham, Kathy Gullekson

## Stitchery Group

Mission: Stitchery is sharing the love of God in the community by supplying necessary items for comfort and safety. Stitchery encourages any person to voluntarily assist in the sewing and assembly of quilts, lap robes and crib blankets for distribution into the community as needed. Stitchery sponsors the annual Mitten Tree to collect and distribute donated winter accessory items to children in area schools.

Meeting Times: The Stitchery Group meets at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Monday of each month, year round. There are no special skills required to attend.

Materials: Most materials are donated. When necessary, purchased items from donated funds include spools of thread, material or twin sheets for backings, and fillers. Occasionally, machines located in the choir room require repairs.

Beginning balance December 31, 2018	\$ 596.02
Ending balance December 31, 2019	\$ 571.45

Items donated in 2019:

34 Quilts, twin	12 Quilts, children
3 Crib Quilts	16 Lap Robes
9 Pillow Cases	



The 2019 Mitten Tree results will be included in the 2020 Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Gibelyou, Coordinator Zion Stitchery



## 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 replaced the exit door off from the choir room. Thanks to the special talent of Greg and Nancy Anderson we were able to install ceramic tile to replace the floor in the women's bathroom.

The toughest task of the property committee is finding members with special talent that may help us in maintaining God's holy house.

The committee will continue to work on having the parking lot repaved in the near future but right now we feel that the removal of the pines is a necessity.

Property Committee Members:

George Cochrane, Jeff Johnson, Greg Anderson, Jerry Pratt, Harold Carson, Mick McDonald, and Jim Higgins



Cemetery Care

### Hobart Cemetery Committee

The Hobart Cemetery committee held several work bees at the cemetery again this year. 2019 activities include:

**May:** A large amount of brush from the ash trees removed last fall was chipped and disposed.

**August:** A rail fence was installed by volunteers along the front of the cemetery.

**Sept:** Repairs were made to base of the Cemetery Entrance sign and a preservative was applied to the new fence. At a second Sept work bee brush was cut and cleared from the front bank and along the back of the property.

**October:** Sincere thanks to Craig Johnson for donating the labor and materials to improve the access road in the cemetery. A parking area, gravel road, and turn around were installed.

There was one interment and one lot purchase in 2019.

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.



### Stewardship Committee

We began 2019 by reading *Kitchen Table Giving* by William J. Enright. The book inspired us to begin to think about how families make decisions about taking care of everything God has provided. This led to our goal for the year, which was to communicate with the congregation about the impact of their giving; specifically how money is used for ministry and the impact of volunteer hours given to Zion. We shared a temple talk about benevolence gift given to Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek and how they utilized the gift. Through the December Tower Topics, we reported the results of the Time and Talent sheets for 2020.

In 2020, we will continue working on our goal of communicating what Zion does with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Stewardship Committee:

Kathy Gullekson, Val Hanson, and Jeri LaRocque



### Worship Committee

There were several notable events in Zion's worship life this year. Pastor Scott did a sermon series for Lent on faith practices. It was a great review of time honored practices of prayer, bible reading, etc. At the end of Lent the 'Alleluia Launcher' brought Easter joy to young and old.

Our music ministry has continued to evolve in the past year. In January pianist Nailya Cederstrom took a place in the rotation with our organists, Joanne and Carolyn, leading worship services. Jim Schoensee leads the Zion ensemble that's made regular appearances at worship through the fall, winter, and spring months. In the spring Nailya also took the position of Music Ministry Director. Her musical passion and hard work has brought musicians offering special music to most weekly services. There were also several concerts at Zion on Sunday afternoons in the fall. Heartfelt thanks to all musicians and vocalists. Many in the congregation have expressed their appreciation for your musical offerings.

In October the aging sanctuary sound system was replaced. The new system brings updated technology and custom speakers that make it easier to hear the spoken word in all areas of the sanctuary.

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 Committee: Nancy Anderson, Paula Campbell, Joanne Carlson, Randy Mercier,  
Lee Jones (2019 Council Liason)



## 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 Helen Potter, Jeri LaRoque, and Lynn Gullekson.

That 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 also acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the work of the Sound System Task Force for their work in researching and overseeing the installation and problem solving of the new sound system.

We acknowledge, with appreciation and thankfulness to God, the guidance and the dedication of our 2019 paid staff: Lori Watson, Joanne Carlson, Nailya Cederstrom, Valerie Hanson, Beckie Kanipe, Carolyn Lucas, and Martha Solomon. 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 and appreciation, our congregation’s generosity in giving of their time, talent, and treasure on behalf of our church and for the greater good of our community at large. Because of this generous support, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of others locally, and throughout the world.

**Disbursement of 2019 General Fund Balance Excess**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the 2019 General Fund Balance (excess of income over expenses) be disbursed as follows:



2019 Fund Balance Excess		<u>\$37,075.35</u>
1. Special Benevolence - Outreach	1.	5,000
2. Contingency fund for Sabbatical	2.	<u>32,075.35</u>
TOTAL Surplus for 2019		\$ 37,075.35



**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the following items are approved as capital improvements for 2020 and, be it further resolved, that all expenditures are paid from the Reserve for Depreciation Account.

## 2020 Capital Equipment Requests

### ADMINISTRATION

Item	2020	2	2-3 years	4	4-6 years	7-	7-10 years
Battery Backups		\$500		\$500			
Computer - Kids Hope		\$2,000		\$2,000			
Computer - Pastor		\$2,000		\$2,000			
Computer - Office Manager		\$2,000		\$2,000			
Computer - Server						\$2,000	\$2,000
Lap Top - Ministries Director				\$2,000	\$2,000		
Conversation to Virtual System <sup>(1)</sup>		\$1,000		\$1,000			

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Item	2020	2	2-3 years	4	4-6 years	7-	7-10 years
Tree removal from North & East sides of church property	\$15,000	\$15,000					

## **2020 Operating Budget Recommendation**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the proposed 2020 Operating Budget be adopted by the congregation.

Account	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
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### **INCOME**

#### **WEEKLY GIVING**

Envelope Giving	274,759	296,017
Cash Offering	5,200	5,000
<b>TOTAL Weekly Giving</b>	<b>279,959</b>	<b>301,017</b>

#### **DESIGNATED GIVING**

Initial Offering	200	300
Ash Wednesday	300	400
Lent	1,300	1,300
Maundy Thursday	300	500
Good Friday	400	400
Self-Denial Offering	650	500
Easter	1,500	1,600
Thanksgiving	600	500
Christmas	2,000	1,500
<b>TOTAL Designated Giving</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>7,000</b>

#### **MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS**

Use of Church	2,700	3,000
Thrivent Choice	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,200	1,200
<b>TOTAL Miscellaneous Receipts</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>4,200</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>291,109</b>	<b>312,217</b>

## **EXPENSES**

Account	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
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### **BENEVOLENCE**

Synod Benevolence <sup>(1)</sup> 10%	29,000	31,000
Samaritas (LSSM) Benevolence	1,000	1,000
Love INC	1,000	1,000
Special Outreach Benevolence	6,000	6,000
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,250	1,500
<b>TOTAL Benevolence</b>	<b>38,250</b>	<b>40,500</b>

### **COUNCIL**

Council Supplies	200	200
Synod Assembly	1,200	1,200
<b>TOTAL Council</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>

### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Worship Supplies	2,300	2,300
Altar Guild	900	900
Choir Music/Supplies	200	300
Cleaning of Robes	200	-
Altar Linens	200	300
Copyright Licensing	400	400
<b>TOTAL Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,200</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Benevolence is based upon 10 percent of the combined total weekly and total designated giving.

Account	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
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### FELLOWSHIP

Event Equipment Rental	0	0
Food Supplies	800	800
Activity Supplies	300	300
<b>TOTAL Fellowship</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>

### EVANGELISM

Evangelism Supplies	550	550
Publicity	2,200	2,200
<b>TOTAL Evangelism</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>2,750</b>

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach Supplies	450	450
Socks & Underwear Ministry	500	500
<b>TOTAL Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>950</b>

### PARISH EDUCATION

Christian Education - Adult	200	200
Christian Education - Youth	1,800	1,900
Library Fund	100	100
Vacation Bible School/Day Camp	400	400
<b>TOTAL Parish Education</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>

### YOUTH

Zion Lions	300	300
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Middle/Senior High Youth	4,000	4,000
<b>TOTAL Youth</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>

<b>Account</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
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### **KIDS HOPE**

Kids Hope Supplies	300	300
Social Events	550	550
<b>TOTAL Kids Hope</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>850</b>

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship Supplies	500	525
Offering Envelopes	700	700
<b>TOTAL Stewardship</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,225</b>

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Office Supplies	3,500	3,500
Postage & Post Office Box Rental	2,800	2,000
Bank Service Charges	225	250
Computer & Internet	1,200	3,300
Office Printer Service Contract	2,500	2,500
Miscellaneous	300	300
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	<b>10,525</b>	<b>11,850</b>

### **PASTORAL SUPPORT**

Pastor's Salary	39,478	40,708
Housing	22,000	22,000
Professional Allowance	1,200	2,500
Car Allowance	2,000	2,000

Health & Pension	34,745	36,945
FICA Allowance	4,703	4,797
<b>TOTAL Pastoral Support</b>	104,126	108,950

Account	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
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**PROPERTY**

Heating	7,000	7,000
Electric	7,500	7,600
Water, Sewer, and Garbage	2,500	2,500
Telephone	1,200	1,200
Insurance - Property/Liability	4,300	4,300
Grounds - Landscaping	1,000	1,000
Grounds - Snow Removal	500	1,500
Grounds - Equipment Service	500	500
Building - Supplies	2,300	2,300
Building - Equipment Repair	2,500	2,500
Building - Repairs and Maintenance	5,000	5,000
Hobart Cemetery	1,500	1,750
<b>TOTAL Property</b>	35,800	37,150

**SALARIES -**

Office Manager	25,750	26,162
Ministries Director	23,809	24,525
Kids Hope Coordinator	3,345	3,412
Music Coordinator/Coach	3,250	3,315
Organist	9,983	10,183
Choir Director	0	0

Choir Accompanist	2,100	2,142
<b>TOTAL Salaries</b>	<b>68,237</b>	<b>69,739</b>

<b>Account</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
<b>STAFF BENEFITS</b>		
FICA/Medicare	5,221	5,335
Insurance - Worker's Comp	1,000	1,000
<b>TOTAL Staff Benefits</b>	<b>6,221</b>	<b>6,335</b>

**CONTRACTED SERVICES**

Accounting	4,000	4,200
Custodian - Hope Network	4,500	5,250
Custodian - Other	2,500	3,500
Supply Pastor	1,500	9,168
<b>TOTAL Contracted Services</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>22,118</b>

**MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

<b>Total Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>269,109</b>	<b>317,217</b>

<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Year-End Carry Over		
Special Benevolence - Outreach		
General Fund		

<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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