

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ZION NEWS

JULY — AUGUST 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER — FROM PASTOR RICK

In a forthcoming book entitled “Beyond Doubt: The Secularization of Society,” the authors state that in the United States, somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 churches close down every year, either to be repurposed as apartments, laundries, skate parks, or to simply be demolished.” I have not read the book. My source is a series of articles by Jessica Grose which were published in the New York Times beginning in April.

Ms. Grose also reported that a poll conducted by the National Opinion Research Center in March found that “only 39 percent of respondents said religion was very important to them, compared to 62 percent who said that in 1998.” The reasons for this trend are complex and varied, but it has led to what Jim Davis, Michael Graham and Ryan Burge argue is the most dramatic change in regular attendance at houses of worship. “We are currently in the middle of the largest and fastest religious shift in the history of our country,” they postulate, because “about 15 percent of Ameri-

can adults living today (around 40 million people) have effectively stopped going to church, and most of this dechurching has happened in the past 25 years.”

Attendees of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly heard similar statistics that are true across all Christian denominations. For Lutherans, in particular, the fall in attendance numbers has more to do with age. The remnants of the “greatest generation” and baby boomers who comprise a large portion of attendance at Lutheran churches are at a point in their lives where church attendance is not possible because of health and mobility concerns.

In her own unscientific poll of her Times readers, Ms. Grose found there was one aspect of church that those who chose not to attend or disaffiliate from congregations missed. Across all faiths — Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist — it was the deep sense of a connected, caring community that they found absent from their lives. When

Ms. Grose asked sociologists if community created around secular activities could replace religious communities, the answer was a resounding no.

Phil Zuckerman, a sociologist at Pitzer College, explained it this way: “I can go play soccer on a Sunday morning and hang out with people from different races and different class backgrounds, and we can bond. But I’m not doing that with my grandparents and my grandchildren.” A secular community can’t provide spiritual solace in the face of death, it probably doesn’t have a weekly charitable call, and there’s no sense of connection to a heritage that goes back generations. You can get bits and pieces of these disparate qualities elsewhere, he said, but there’s no “one-stop shop” — at least not right now.

Spiritual support in trying times is important. Building relationships across generations with Jesus Christ at the center yields caring, compassionate communities. Together, let’s keep working at that.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, a community of the people of God, worship faithfully, provide opportunities of Christian learning for people of all ages, and serve others in the love and name of Christ our Lord.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE JULY 2023

- 2 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 9 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 16 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 23 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 30 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School

AUGUST 2023

- 6 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 13 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 20 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School
- 27 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 Sunday School

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL & MAY 2023

Current Fund*		Memorial Fund	
April Income	\$16,323.00	April Income	\$0.00
April Expenses	\$14,305.09	April Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Income	\$57,327.22	Year to Date Income	\$361.12
Year to Date Expenses	\$61,657.45	Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Balance	(\$4,330.23)	Year to Date Balance	\$361.12
Balance as of 4/30/23	\$44,130.77	Balance as of 4/30/23	\$9,168.59
Future Projects Fund			
April Income	\$907.00	Checking Balance	\$44,130.77
April Expenses	\$6,818.00	Current CD Balance	\$41,117.18
Year to Date Income	\$3,991.21	Organ Fund Balance	\$11,129.72
Year to Date Expenses	\$6,818.00	Helping Hand Fund	\$1,609.29
Year to Date Balance	(\$2,826.79)	Sawdust Ministry	\$3,126.84
Balance as of 4/30/23	\$39,086.08	OZY Fund Balance	\$7,568.75

Current Fund*		Memorial Fund	
May Income	\$9,719.00	May Income	\$0.00
May Expenses	\$16,228.06	May Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Income	\$67,046.22	Year to Date Income	\$362.74
Year to Date Expenses	\$77,885.51	Year to Date Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Balance	(\$10,839.29)	Year to Date Balance	\$362.74
Balance as of 5/31/23	\$37,621.71	Balance as of 5/31/23	\$9,531.33
Future Projects Fund			
May Income	\$1,628.00	Checking Balance	\$37,621.71
May Expenses	\$79.00	Current CD Balance	\$41,129.01
Year to Date Income	\$5,626.85	Organ Fund Balance	\$11,151.60
Year to Date Expenses	\$6,897.00	Helping Hand Fund	\$1,677.50
Year to Date Balance	(\$1,270.15)	Sawdust Ministry	\$3,166.84
Balance as of 5/31/23	\$40,642.72	OZY Fund Balance	\$7,568.75

*The former Building Fund is now part of the Current Fund.

SHUT-INS AND BIRTHDAYS

We have members who for a variety of reasons are unable to join us for worship each Sunday. We listed them below and invite you to mail a card to them.

The date of their birth is also included!

Kenneth Kline, c/o Connie Clark, P.O. Box 41, Selingsgrove, PA 17870, Birthday: August 19

Marian Ritter, The Manor at Penn Village, 51 Route 204, Selingsgrove, PA 17870, May 1

Barry Knouse, 1682 Mile Hill Road, Sunbury, PA 17801, April 16

Jean Long, The Manor at Penn Village, 51 Route 204, Selingsgrove, PA 17870, November 22

Donald Saurers, Watsontown Nursing and Rehab, 245 East 8th Street, Watsontown, PA 17777, July 10

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a loved one or friend needs pastoral care of any type, if someone is in or is going into the hospital or a nursing home, if someone needs a visit at home, or would like to receive communion, please call the church office at 570-374-8755. In the event of an emergency, please call Pastor Rick on his cell phone at 570-847-3113. Please leave a message if he doesn't answer!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY HELD JUNE 16-17

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly was held on June 16-17 at Susquehanna University. A detailed recap will appear in the next USS Ark, but here are the highlights:

- Elected a new vice president

- Honored Bishop Emerita Barbara J. Collins
- Passed resolutions establishing a Commission for Congregational Renewal and Vitality and lowering the quorum for assembly
- Passed the 2024 Budget and Salary, Housing, and Health Benefit Guidelines for pastors and deacons

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS — MARCH-JULY 2023

MARCH

Council heard reports about several important items affecting our church. Our new sound/streaming system from Gelnett and Associates continues to be put together as components arrive. Next month's arrangements for the Easter services were reviewed. We are competing with Salem Lutheran to see who donates the most cleaning supplies to be sent to D.I.G., a local charitable organization. Whoever donates the highest amount will be served a luncheon by the other church.

APRIL

Church council went over plans to host Salem Lutheran for a potluck lunch, due to Salem's recent fire, to celebrate the collection of supplies to be donated to D.I.G., on April 23. Terry Klinger and Marie Nichols are compiling instructions for the new sound/streaming system which is now mostly installed. Council voted to pay 50% of the remaining balance until all of the system has been installed by Gelnett. A congregational meeting is also set for April 23 to vote on three new wooden doors for the rear of the church, as recommended by the Safety Committee and by council. The existing doors cannot be retrofitted to meet today's safety requirements. Low bid for the three doors was \$9,125. These will be paid for with donations and from the Neumann account. Congregation voted to ap-

prove.

MAY

Council authorized the final payment to Gelnett and Associates for the new sound/streaming system, now that all items are functional. A new lockbox has been installed on the exterior of the church with the purpose of enabling emergency services to access the building in case of emergencies.

JUNE

Council heard that Vacation Bible School will be held July 9-13, 2023, that there is little interest for the next National Youth Gathering in July 2024 at this time, and that Ray Long has refinished the wood on top of the piano in the nave.

Council also was informed by Bishop Craig Miller and Pastor Rick White, that Pastor White will be retiring from our church as of December 31, 2023. A letter stating this is being sent to church members.

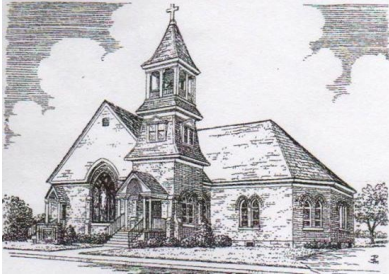
JULY

No council meeting – summer break.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Hess, Council Secretary



White



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Email:
kratzervilleltrchrch@gmail.com

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

ZIONKRATZERVILLE.WORDPRESS.COM

PRAYER LIST

Donald Sauers	Nancy Haines	Jake Hane
Irene Catherman	Kenneth Berge	David & Helen Hannah
Earl Frantz	Stacey Beaver	Joyce Kratzer
Don Neidig	Mary Kalcich	Malyssa Lenig
Ken Kline	Gary Auman	Walt Sprenkle
Jean Long	Eddi McKay Johnston	Linda Sassaman
Marian Ritter	Linda Hufnagle	Jimmy Schreffler
Michele	Deb Shellenberger	John Jones
Paul Hollenbach	Becky Bollinger	Mary Jane Adams
Lovetta Gross	Jane Dunkelberger	Jerris Cutchall
Craig Ritter	Clair Rhoads	Bill Buck
Bob Ritter	Allen Reichley	George Contrestan
Ray & Jenna Sassaman	Cameron Sholvin	Joan
Carl Berge Jr.	Donna Simonetti	Logan Roush
Lindsey Smeltz	Norman & Susan Straub	Leevi
Barry & Pat Knouse	Brenda Reinard	Ed Vance
Linda Frymoyer	Terry Sassaman	Jared Cummings
Charlie Knouse	Larry Sassaman	Horace
Craig Haines	Kathy Spangler	Sue

When you are away on vacation, you can always worship on Zoom! Just use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85451243249?pwd=czF1bUVMbGpDc3djYlF4YkVNdWRhUT09>

WELCA IS COLLECTING ITEMS TO AID UKRAINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Here's the list:

- Children's diapers, Size 1-5
- Hygiene items for newborns: Shampoo, Diaper Cream, Body Lotion, Body Wash
- Hygiene items for women: Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Disposable Nursing Pads, Breast Pump, Nursing Diapers, Disposable Underpants for women in labor, Nursing Bra, Nipples Protecting Cream
- Baby Formula
- Baby Porridges
- Supplemental Food for children

- Baby Sleeping Bag
 - Toys for Children ages 1-5, such as board games, scooters, beanbags, bicycles
 - Sleepy Wrap Baby Carrier
 - Infant Car Seat
 - Non-perishable Food for women
 - Laundry powder, Dishwashing Liquid, Detergent, Household Soap
 - Haemostatic Agent, Hemostatic Tourniquets
- Bring items to the church or donate money. WELCA will do the shopping for you and deliver the items for shipping to Ukraine.

THANK YOU to WELCA ladies so very much for all the hard work you did to put on the luncheon after mom's funeral. It was so appreciated. Everything was delicious and so well put together. Thank you so much for finding and making food, setting up tables, and cleaning. It allowed us to focus on family, friends, and memories of mom. We hope you can use this donation to help others as you've helped us. With much love and appreciation. *The Herr Family.*

THANK YOU for the warm welcome to Kratzerville. It is returning home for Barry and a new adventure for me. Thank you to WELCA for Barry's Birthday Basket. He enjoyed it, especially the goodies. Thank you for the cards and prayers for us during my surgery and recovery. I am doing

great. Thank you to Pastor Rick for his prayers and visit. We appreciate everything that the congregation has done for us. We thank God we belong to the Christian family of Zion. God bless all of you. *By Barry & Pat Knouse*

THANK YOU to Ray Long for doing such a beautiful job of refinishing the top of the piano in the nave. The surface had been damaged by placing plants there without anything protective under them. Thanks, Ray, for sharing your talents with us once again! Your work is amazing.

THANK YOU to Tom & Kathie Lenig for the beautiful flowers and to all who signed the card recognizing the ninth anniversary of my ordination. You all are a blessing to me. *Pastor Rick*