THE LIGHT

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT
March 2023 Vol. 7 Issue 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community of Zion,

Before you you sit down and get comfortable to read this, please make sure you have your calendar with you. There are a couple of things that I want to make sure you know about.

When I interviewed with you and asked the question, “What drew you to Zion” and “Why do you go to Zion”, many of you said “the people” or the community”.

Over the last couple of months, it has been great to see the community come back together. More and more people at the worship services. Fellowship Hour is standing room only. More opportunities to gather as a community.

I want to share two opportunities to gather as a community and I hope you will be able to take the opportunity to be part of them.

First….Wednesdays in Lent. We will gather at 6:00 pm to eat together. Soup will be provided. Bring a salad or a sandwich or just enjoy the soup! Then there will be a time to “Sing with all the Saints in Glory”. A chance to look at some of the saints (small “s”) in the Lutheran tradition - Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. Choir follows (consider singing with the choir through Lent and Easter Sunday).

Second…Homecoming Weekend (Saturday, March 18th and Sunday, March 19th). A time to celebrate our community. Especially, if you haven’t had an opportunity to come to worship in a while. We want everyone to feel welcome to come that weekend. Come home to worship with your community. There will be a special Fellowship Time between the two Sunday services.

Since you have your calendar….read through the rest of this newsletter and see what else is happening.

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Zion:

Do you want to warm your heart? Turn to page 5 of this issue and read about some of the many wonderful things going on here at Zion for our members and for the community at large. The compassion and generosity of our members just makes me smile. Thanks to all who continue to inspire us every day. I know you have completely humbled Lisa Proffitt with your show of support for the programs she brings to the congregation and February was no exception. A huge thank you to Lisa for leading us in these efforts.

Sincerely,

For Pastoral Care and Concerns,

Please contact Pastor Jeff Stalley
by phone: cell # 860-490-5784 or
email: pastor@zionlutheranct.org

Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 4:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM & 10:15AM*

***Coffee / Fellowship Hour between Services**
Sunday School / Confirmation at 9:00AM

"Treasure Talk" by John Miller

January 2023 Results	2023 Budget*	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual v Budget
Total Income	$ 15,272.90	$ 13,941.04	$ 9,637.04	$ (1,331.86)
Total Expenses	$ 29,550.63	$ 28,743.20	$ 24,147.29	$ (807.43)
Net Income/(Loss)	$ (14,277.73)	$ (14,802.16)	$ (14,510.25)	$ (524.43)

We look to be in line with respect to both the budget and the prior year actual for January 2023, all of which show a significant loss. In an attempt to find a way to reduce our reliance on Apple Harvest to balance our budget, the finance committee met earlier this week for the first time in quite a while to discuss the 2023 budget, the January 2023 results, and the possible approaches to begin to restart a stewardship program. We had a great turnout and a very engaging meeting. The discussions were preliminary and we agreed to continue meeting on a monthly basis to work through these issues and as well as others. We will keep you informed on our progress.

Wednesdays in Lent: We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our Christian journey. This *Lenten Midweek Series* honors the commemorations that occur during the weeks in Lent in 2023. Commemorating these individuals is a starting point for a deeper engagement with our Christian faith. **Wednesdays, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th**

6:00PM Soup (Light Meal) 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir

Current Council Members

President	John Miller	president@zionlutheranct.org
Vice President	Pete Cappellino	vicepresident@zionlutheranct.org
Treasurer	Kevin Doran	treasurer@zionlutheranct.org
Secretary	Leslie Sanchez	secretary@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Music & Worship	Michelle Gibbs	worshipandmusic@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Membership & Witness	Krista Steindl	membershipandwitness@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Congregational Welfare	Lisa Proffitt	congregationalwelfare@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Financial Affairs	Open	
Dir. Christian Education	Carra Rockwood	christianeducation@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Christian Fellowship	Cindy Babon	fellowship@zionlutheranct.org
Dir. Church Facilities	Lois Garafola and Mark Proffitt	facilities@zionlutheranct.org

Holy Week

April 2nd - Palm / Passion Sunday - Saturday Worship at 4:00PM
Sunday Worship at 8:00AM and 10:15AM
Sunday School / Confirmation - *Stations of the Cross* event at 9:00AM
Easter Egg Hunt at 11:15AM (after worship)

April 6th - Maundy Thursday - Worship at 7:00PM

April 7th - Good Friday - *ZCNS* Egg Hunt event at 10:00AM (call 860-628-6007 for info)
Worship at 7:00PM

April 9th - Easter - 6:00AM Sunrise Easter Worship
8:00AM Worship
10:15AM Worship

Remember in Your Prayers

Our prayer list is updated monthly - Let us remember these people as we pray daily.

Members of Zion

Lord in your Mercy: Linda Graham; Beverly Clark; George McKenny; Beth & Steve Long; Lee Bluis; Ginny Freeman; Bill Umile; Cindy Reinert and Michelle Lavoie, daughters of Paul Reinert.

Those in Hospitals, Care Centers and Homebound:

William Brown - ***The Summit;*** Bob Miller - ***Autumn Lake, Cromwell***

Wedding Anniversaries: 3/2, Dominique & David Kall

Family & Friends of Zion

Lord in your Mercy:

Butch Rabe, Bonnie Rabe, friends of Mark and Lisa Proffitt; Max; the Main family, friends of the Garafola family; Val & family, family of Bonnie Zownir; Alex Meyer, grandson of Lois Griszkauskas; Reno Pellitier, friend of Lois Griszkauskas; Debbie & Fred, Roz & Joe friends of Carra Rockwood; Dennis & family, cousins of Carra Rockwood; Barbara & Rick Klemm, sister and brother-in-law of Joan Cockcroft; Kaitlyn & Kyle, niece and nephew of Joan Cockcroft; Walter, brother of Joan Cockcroft; Cindy Collella; Benjamin Warren Smith (infant); Jocelyn, relative of John Miller; Scott, friend of John Miller; Barbara Gladue, mother of Michelle Gladue; Phil Marcos, friend of Lisa Miller; Anita, sister of Karen Umile; Pennie; Keiko & Mike Goulet, friends of Christine Kryzwick; Gary Perzan and family; Maria Fleck, sister-in-law of Carra Rockwood. Steve, Ben, & Nina Fleck, family of Carra Rockwood; Mary Mousch, Andrew Petito, family of Karen Erasmus; Alan Shaker, Chad, friends of Sue Skrzypiec.

Births:

Blessed are the Dead:

Service, For the men and women in the military serving our country:

Russell Karshis, cousin of Dawne Cappellino; Staff Sgt. Michael McKenney; Lt. Colonel Zachary Fulton, USAF, nephew of Lisa Proffitt; Danny Woolley, son of Diane and Dave Woolley; Matthew DeLorenzo, U.S. Navy, friend of the Doran Family; 1st Lt. Colton McInnis, USAF pilot, son of Susan Prairie; Kurt Oden, USAF, nephew of Christine Kryzwick.

To update or add prayer requests, please call (860)628-5759, or email - office@zionlutheranct.org

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK OVER THIS PRAYER LIST SO THAT WE CAN ENSURE IT IS CURRENT. CONTACT THE OFFICE VIA EMAIL OR PHONE TO MAKE CHANGES. THANK YOU!

President's Report - January 2023

(included in Congregational Meeting packet and the March issue of "The Light")

Dear Fellow Members of Zion:

I am amazed at just how quickly time passes. It feels like just yesterday that we met for last year's annual meeting. I realize that part of the reason is that last year's meeting wasn't until the end of March, but it still doesn't seem possible that we will be more than halfway through January 2023. 2023? How did that happen? It doesn't seem that long ago that Y2K was the hottest topic in the news. What was going to happen when the clock struck midnight and we entered the year 2000. Would our computers work, would planes drop from the sky, would cars stop in their tracks and would the world find itself in total chaos? Fortunately, none of that happened and life continued as normal for most.

Fast forward 20 years and we were faced with COVID-19, which turned out much more serious as it impacted almost every family in one way or another. At times it felt like the world was going to spiral out of control and life would never be the same. But like so many times throughout our history, we adapted and found ways to stay connected, to support each other and to live life in as normal a way as possible. Life wasn't perfect and many families suffered unthinkable tragedies, but we worked together to get through the tough times and to celebrate the good ones. People suffer tragedies every day, but when so many suffer at the same time it's overwhelming. Thankfully, we have such a caring family here at Zion to help us through those times. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

As I began thinking about writing this letter, I kept hearing Cindy in my ear telling me things I should say and needed to say. In searching for some information, I kept coming across her emails reminding me of so many things. So, if I forget to thank someone or not recognize something that I may or may not have been aware they've done, please remind me because Cindy would have made sure I knew. Over the last several months, I've talked about the hole she left here at Zion after her sudden passing and that I truly believe her wish would be to have that hole filled by all of us here. Life is short and that's never more apparent then when you lose someone who means so much to so many. It makes you realize, at least me, that you never truly appreciate all they have done until they are gone. That certainly was true with Cindy. Although that hole is not and will never be completely filled, there are so many who have stepped up to continue her legacy and it is greatly appreciated.

I can't say it enough, we are truly blessed here at Zion. I consider Zion my second home. Although I can get a little cranky at times, I do feel energized every time I walk into this building. We do have our challenges and not everything goes as smoothly as we would like, but the passion and compassion of so many here truly inspires me to want to do more and to do it better. I am in awe of all of the many tasks and acts of kindness that are performed by our little community each and every day. I know Zion and the Southington community are better places because of your good works and the way you share your time, talents and treasure.

I am grateful for all the progress we have made in 2022. Slowly, we are getting back to normal. We celebrated all three Christmas Eve services indoors and were almost bursting at the seams at our 3:00pm service. We had a Christmas Day service for the first time in over five years. Our choir is stronger than ever and the bell choir is back. There's more activity at the church during the day and in the evenings than there has been in three years. We are starting to see more and more families return to worship services and Sunday School and especially in the past several weeks, we are being visited by many new families, all very positive signs.

In 2022, we experienced another successful Apple Harvest Festival under the leadership of Krista Steindl and her hardworking Apple Harvest Committee. Krista took up the mantel from her mom Lois and never skipped a beat, but if she did Lois was right there to help and guide her. Like every year, there is much concern about what it takes to run our Fritter booth and will we have enough volunteers to cover all the slots not only in the booth, but for every other task that needs to be completed before, during and after the festival. That concern has been compounded over the past two years as we gave still been feeling the effects of Covid and this past year in particular not having Cindy to rally the troops (maybe twist their arms) to volunteer. However, with a new online scheduling system, an iPad donated by the Grahams and Krista's drive and determination, we were able to overcome those obstacles and made it through pretty much unscathed. We also had many new faces join us this year and had a record number of new fryers trained, most often in the heat of the battle. All it took was one look at a fryolator and you were officially welcomed into this elite group and recognized as the newest fryer before you even knew what hit you. I was so excited about this voluntary (well mostly voluntary) draft system that a few times I found myself in the bagging area, one of if not the most stressful area in the booth. (Don't tell

anyone that I admitted that. I will deny it.). Thank you to everyone who put in the effort this past year. I know for some of you it was a second full time job and for our members who enjoy retirement, it ends up being a full-time job.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
As you review the committee reports found in this annual report, you will be reminded of all the wonderful things that happened here at Zion over the course of the past year. I can't emphasize enough of all the hard work done by our council members and their committees. They have remained dedicated and focused throughout Covid and beyond. We have many opportunities for you to join them in carrying out their mission, whichever one you chose to support. New committee members are always welcome and there is always an opportunity to join Council after that. Please take some time to prayerfully consider your calling and commit to finding a way to answer that call here at Zion.

Before I run out of space, I do want to take a moment to recognize our team here at Zion. Pastor Jeff has weathered the storm with us since he arrived and is so excited to move into this next phase of normalcy. In his own quiet way, he has supported so many of our missions here and brings a great source of knowledge and understanding to every aspect of church life. He has taken so much time to understand us as a community and has not once tried to impose his will, but only to offer thoughtful suggestions and advice of ways to handle situations based on his many years of experience. He has a great capacity to listen, really listen to what people are saying and trying to convey. He leads, but does not demand. He is more concerned about coming to the best solution, not his solution. Pastor Jeff was a rare find and we look forward to continuing to forge this new path with both him and Debbie for years to come. They both have fritter fever and have added so much to our apple fritter season, so they are definitely here to stay.

I could spend the next several pages talking about how much Chris Messner has meant to this congregation over the past 40 years. His talent and dedication to our church has been nothing but amazing. Chris rolls with the punches and never complains. Whether he has four choir members or twenty and whether they are experienced or not, he makes everyone feel special. I love the fact that when Chris is here and that is almost all the time as he rarely gets away, our church is filled with the most beautiful music. We have no idea how fortunate we are. Thank you, Chris.

Ali Frega has been working with our youth for over four years now. She brings a lot of energy and ray of sunshine to our youth programs. She has seen a lot of changes since she started and has worked hard to make a positive impact on Zion's youth in everything she does. Thank you, Ali.

Danielle Muir joined our team as the Nursery School director after Colleen Clark's retirement and has picked up right where Colleen left off. She is full of energy and has some great ideas. Nikki Heitz, a long-time Zion member and the nursery school board chair, has been working closely with Danielle and they have accomplished a lot over these past several months. Welcome Danielle!

Finally, Christine, our parish administrator, always goes above and beyond the call of duty making sure nothing falls through the cracks and that things go along as smoothly as possible here at Zion. Since Christine's arrival, she has been a hidden treasure to this church. I say hidden treasure, because if you are only here on Sundays you cannot appreciate all that she takes care of in the course of the week or the energy and compassion with which she performs each task. Over these past several years, I have come to rely on her for so many things, too numerous to list and with each passing week I appreciate her more and more. Please join me in thanking Christine for being such a vital part of our Zion family.

In closing, I will use the closing paragraph from one of my previous letters as it still is so very relevant. I would like to thank everyone who has given of their time, talents and treasures to this church throughout the year and ask that you continue that generous spirit for years to come. Please invite others into our church community to join us in our mission and continue to make our new members feel welcome. There is much to be thankful for here at Zion and it would be wonderful to share these blessings with others.

Sincerely,

John E. Miller, President
Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday School News

March 2023 **submitted by Ali Frega**

Sunday School & Confirmation Class

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help on April 2nd for our Palm Sunday Stations. We would like to have a few more family volunteers so please reach out if you would like to help that morning.

We will not meet on April 9th in observance of Easter.

Confirmation Class Fundraiser

After the worship services on February 11th and 12th, Zion's Confirmation students collected $407 for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" (thru *Bread for Life*.) This program, started by a seminarian intern, was designed to harness the energy & enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend to tackle hunger.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our youth and the Southington community.

Easter Egg Hunt

All children are invited to join our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm / Passion Sunday April 2nd after the 10:15AM worship service. Bring a friend! All are welcome!

First Communion Class

We are in the process of planning for this year's *First Communion class* with our 4th grade students. Class will be held on one day and we will celebrate the Communion with our students the next day.

We are looking forward to celebrating with everyone soon.

Youth Group

High School students will meet on Sunday, March 12th at 6:00PM.

Middle School will meet on Sunday, March 26th at 6:00PM.

Dinner will be provided.

All are welcome to attend! We encourage you to bring a friend to join in on the fun!

A Peek into Zion Nursery School

It has been busy, busy, busy at ZCNS. Health has been on the docket this month. Students had vision screenings courtesy of the Southington Lions Club and they enjoyed seeing the neat equipment used. Classes also have been learning about teeth. They've identified healthy snacks and ways to keep their chompers happy!

Our annual Special Person's Day is fast approaching, Students will invite a grandparent or special person in their lives to spend the day with them. There will be songs, activities and more!

On April 7th at 10:00AM, ZCNS will be holding its first ever Easter Egg Hunt! Tickets are $5 and can be purchased in March. Call the nursery school for tickets and more information at 860-628-6007!

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME OF YEAR!

If you, or someone you know, will be heading on to a Post-Secondary Accredited program, whether it's a 4-year college program, a 2-year college program, or any other accredited program, please consider applying for a scholarship from Zion. Applications for both the ***Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Post Secondary Education Scholarship AND The Czarnota Family Apple Fritter Scholarship*** are available at worship or by calling the church office. They will also be included as a link you can click on in the weekly "Ministry Opportunities" blue email.

The deadline to submit completed applications is March 27th.

Please call Lisa Proffitt at 860-621-4316 with questions.

The Easter Bunny Needs Your Help!

Individually wrapped **candy** and **plastic eggs** are being collected for *Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.* If you would like to donate, please items in the basket in the Gathering Place by **Sunday, March 26th**. Thank you!

Love to Cook? Love to Eat?

Now is the time to place your order for Zion's First Cookbook…

"Cooking for Joy, Cooking with Love"

Dedicated in memory of Cindy Miller.

$15 each

Proceeds will benefit the 'Czarnota Family Apple Fritter Scholarship'

The perfect gift for… Mother's Day, Wedding Showers, College Graduation, House Warming, Birthdays, Christmas or 'Just Because.'

Order forms can be found in this mailing and in the Gathering Place.

Call or text Betty Lou at 860-304-6668 or email her at BL10034@aol.com with questions.

Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

is Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 11:00AM (after the 10:15 worship service.) All children are invited! Bring a friend to join in on the fun!

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!

Look for order forms at Zion and in the weekly emails.

Flower orders are due by Sunday, March 26th

Join Us for Ladies' Lunch on Saturday,

March 18th at ***El Sombrero***, 151 Queen St.

We plan on having our lunch on a Saturday every few months to hopefully fit in the schedules of those who can't attend during the week!

Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Making Zion Your Church Home?

If you'd like to find out more about Zion and/or how to become part of the community of Zion, email Pastor Jeff at pastor@zionlutheranct.org or text 860-490-5784.

Thank you for the overflowing generosity from our Zion family as we 'Shared the Love' with *Bread for Life*! Your support of this annual outreach to the Southington community was enormous, and they were so grateful for the **125 donated gift cards** which were delivered on Valentine's Day to *Bread for Life* who will distribute them to their clients!

THANK YOU SO MUCH… for the outpouring of support for our '*Stuffed Animal Drive*!'

230 stuffed animals were picked up by the Southington Police department on Sunday, February 26th between worship times. Officer LaPorte even met with our Sunday School classes! Your donations will comfort somany children and were greatly appreciated by our officers!

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 26 **Lent I** 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School / Conf. Coffee / Fellowship Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	27	28	March 1 1:00PM Coffee with Pastor @ Lion's Den 6:00PM Light Meal 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir	2 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory	3	4 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
5 **Lent II** 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School / Conf. Coffee / Fellowship Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion	6	7 7:00PM Worship & Music	8 1:00PM Coffee with Pastor @ Lion's Den 6:00PM Light Meal 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir	9 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory	10	11 ***Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour*** 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
12 **Lent III** ***Daylight savings time*** 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:0000AM Sunday School / Conf. Coffee / Fellowship Hour 10:15AM Worship / Holy Communion 6:00PM HS Youth	13	14	15 6:00PM Light Meal 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir	16 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory 6:00PM Women's Group	17	18 12:00PM Ladies' Lunch @ El Sombrero 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
19 **Lent IV** 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School / Conf. Coffee / Fellowship Hour 10:15AM Worship /Holy Communion	20 7:00PM Finance	21 6:30PM Council	22 1:00PM Coffee with Pastor @ Lion's Den 6:00PM Light Meal 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir	23 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory	24	25 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion
26 **Lent V** 8:00AM Worship / Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School / Conf. Coffee / Fellowship Hour 10:15AM Worship /Holy Communion 6:00PM MS Youth ***Last day for Candy & Egg donations and Easter flower orders***	27 ***Last day for Scholarship Applications***	28	29 1:00PM Coffee with Pastor @ Lion's Den 6:00PM Light Meal 6:30PM Lenten Learning 7:00PM Choir	30 8:00AM Coffee with Pastor @ Perkatory	31 6:00PM Women's Group	April 1 4:00PM Worship / Holy Communion

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
531 Woodruff Street, Southington, CT 06489
Church (860)628-5759, office@zionlutheranct.org
Rev. Jeff Stalley, Pastor cell#860-490-5784
email: pastor@zionlutheranct.org
Website: .zionlutheranct.org

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March 2023

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