











AMMS being made

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Annual Report of the Congregation



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work, Our hands.

Annual congregational meeting opening liturgy

Dialogue and Prayer Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

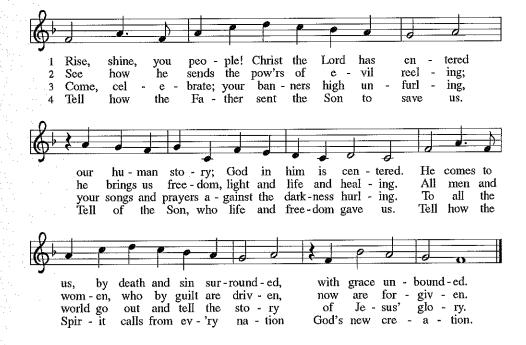
You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

Loving God, in holy baptism you have gathered us together across all human divisions and reconciled us to yourself in one body through the cross. Grant that we who are made new in Christ may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, Strengthen us now by your presence, that our thoughts and actions may be rooted and grounded in your love for us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rise, Shine, You People!



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Keyboard accompaniment is at "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" #665 or "Lutheran Book of Worship" #393.

Dialogue from Psalm 104. Prayer adapted from "Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly."

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Mt. Zion Lutheran Church January 27, 2013 Semi-annual meeting agenda 9:30 a.m.

Call to order:

Mike Naumann, President

Opening prayer:

Pastor Steve Ohrtman

Reading of Mt. Zion's Vision and Mission Statements:

Mike Naumann

Approval of agenda:

Liz Casper, Secretary

Approval of previous minutes (from June 17, 2012 meeting):

Liz Casper

Ministry report:

Pastors Steve and Deb Ohrtman

Mortgage update and early building fund drive: Mike Naumann

Nomination approval of Leadership board member: Mike Naumann Gary Goll

Stewardship of Finances for 2013

Rondi-Rohr Dralle, Treasurer

Approval of budget:

Closing remarks:

Mike Naumann

Lord's Prayer and Benediction:

Pastor Deb Ohrtman

VISION

Gathered by the grace and love of Jesus Christ, the people of Mt. Zion commit to know God deeply and to serve God gladly through the many and diverse gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

MISSION

With the assurance of God's faithfulness, we will

- nurture disciples
- extend healing and compassion
- work for justice

in our communities and throughout the world.

All people are welcome here.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes June 17, 2012 - 9:30 p.m.

Present -Pastor's Steve and Deb Ohrtman and approximately 65 members attended

Call to Order - Mike Naumann, President

Opening Prayer - Pastor Deb Ohrtman

Approval of Agenda – Liz Casper

There was one change on the agenda per Joe DiGiacinto.

VIII. Change the word – reelection to "election of Bob Schrap". Liz called for the motion to approve the revised agenda. Joe Driscoll approved. Jeannie Finn seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of previous minutes (January 29, 2012) - Liz Casper

Liz called for the motion to approve the minutes. Wendi Hall approved. John Link seconded. Unanimously approved.

Stewardship of Finances (Rondi Rohr-Dralle)

Income and expenses YTD vs. budget: Rondi reviewed the income and expense reports. We are trending fine on the expenses but need to catch-up on the YTD budget. Through May 2012, we are (\$19,871) behind budget. Rondi encourage everyone to get current with pledges if they haven't already done so.

Refinancing of building loan – Rondi went over the mortgage refinance packets that just were sent out. A comprehensive overview of the church along with financial reports for the past 6 years were sent out to (4) different lenders. These in-depth financial packets give MZ additional support when talking to Chase Morgan about renewing our loan when it's due in September 2012.

Question from member: What is the current interest rate of our loan? Rondi stated it is currently at 3 1/2%.

Question from member: Where is the money coming from to pay off the interest due in September? Rondi mentioned that the \$50K due is accounted for and available to repay the interest.

\$1/day remaining balance. Our goal is to have this paid off by September 2012.

Legacy Dinner - Liz Casper

On Tuesday, July 10th, Mount Zion is hosting a "Founders - Building a legacy dinner" at Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. Founders of the church (40+ years) will be honored with a sit-down dinner and all members will be invited and encouraged to attend. Invites have been sent out to all founders and members.

New Leadership Board Members - Hope West and Gary Goll:

Hope and Gary introduced themselves. Thank you for answering the call to serve. The LB is very happy to have you on board.

Endowment Committee Member (Term election of Bob Schrap) - Mike Naumann

Bob Schrap is elected to Endowment Committee team. Mike called to approve. Deni Naumann seconded the motion. All approved.

Update on Key Initiatives

Making Mt. Zion better known in the community - Jim McTaggart

Jim gave an update of the strategies in place to continue to build Mt. Zion as a welcoming church and to be recommended as the "church to belong to." The committee is focusing on both internal and external efforts. (Approx. 2-3 mile radius of church). Internal efforts: Consideration to outside worship this summer, Outreach efforts – bring a guest, introduce guests Life Church in Germantown has very high growth patterns. We can look to them as a benchmark and follow some of their ideas External efforts: Mall advertising, Easter invite, flyers, signs out in front, revised "welcoming" brochure with more up-to-date photos, update website and take advantage of social media training to ensure we are set-up for the most effective search engine optimization.

New Member assimilation - Liz Casper

New members will be contacted within 48 hours of joining with a "gift" of some sort to thank them and to remind them of the churches hours, website, etc. Names are being compiled from the "Priesthood of all Believers" sheets that were posted. All people will be assigned to one or more ministries of their interest. It takes everyone's efforts to make the church run 365 days a year.

21st century worship - John Link

John discussed the potential new sound system and having (2) quotes. The most current estimate is approx. \$20K. No action will take place until the dollars are secured first. Mike also touched on the possible new configuration of the sanctuary. This design would lend itself to a more unified worship place. Again, no action will take place until dollars are secured.

Pastors Comments - Pastors Steve and Deb Ohrtman

Pastor Steve extended a huge thank you to everyone for their continual efforts and support of the church. Pastor Deb thanked all the teachers and a special thanks to Julie. One June 21 there will be dessert auction. Everyone in encourage to attend and bring their favorite dessert. There has been a continual support for the Parker family and they truly love the community of MZ. Mark Jasso has started his leadership with the high school students. Be sure to thank him and offer support.

Misc. - Mike Naumann

Parking lot will be resurfaced and funded from the current budget.

Adjournment - Mike Naumann

Meeting was called to adjourn. Liz Casper approved. Jim McTaggert seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Everyone concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Liz Casper 06.19.12

Ministry Report

Brothers and Sisters in the faith,

God's blessings to you this annual meeting time!

We begin with an---'attitude of gratitude'! That's what we as God's people are all about. We begin the day with gratitude we live with it through the day and we finish the day with thanks!

In a world where all we hear is---what we 'don't have'---we as God's people answer in faith with what God has done for us, does for us and promises always to do for us. We live by faith, not as the world does. We trust in God's promised presence and care for us forever!

We are grateful for your faithfulness, your daily witness, your love of all God's people. We thank you for your 'time, talent, treasures'. Through you God makes a real difference in the world. The Holy Spirit is at work through Mount Zion in many ways!

Thank you for looking forward and not backward. The Holy Spirit is at work through Mount Zion in many ways. We continue to pray about how Mt. Zion can better proclaim the gospel to our community and world.

The Lord has blessed Mount Zion with an exciting new Sunday school and now a new A/V system and ministry so that we can better share God's love in the 21st century! We continue with a Wednesday worship option which we believe 'will' grow in time. Please help spread the word. Thanks!

We are excited to help Mount Zion be really ready for the future and begin to grow more (membership growth last year). Thank you to all of you who have been involved in so many ways in 'new' ministries:

Mom's group, baptismal buddies, new member buddies, love & logic classes, A/V team and ministry, Mutual Ministry team, 'honey-do list', festal décor group, new Sunday school, and more!

Thank you to our staff—we are blessed to be working with such faithful, talented, dear people! Also thank you to our leadership team--they truly love their church family, give their time and gifts, and want the very best for God's people!

Thank you Mount Zion--we love you!

Sincerely, Pastors Steve and Deb Ohrtman I have lived in Wisconsin (Milwaukee and its suburbs) all my life. My church life really began at Mt. Zion as I was confirmed by Pastor Kindem before my marriage to Renee Smith. My wife Renee who passed away in May 2011 after a battle with cancer had been a member of Mt. Zion since her youth. She was raised in a home bought from one of the previous pastors of Mr. Zion on 118th street. All of our four children attended Mt.Zion, our youngest son was married at Mt. Zion, and six of my eight grandchildren were baptized at Mt. Zion.

I lived in the Wauwatosa area on 115th street for over 20 years and Pastor and Marion Youngquist were our next door neighbors. Talk about pressure !!! one had to really watch the language during the driveway basketball games.

We moved to the Town of Lisbon in 1994 were I still reside. We did look at other congregations but it just didn't work. The friendships and hospitable atmosphere at Mt. Zion kept pulling us back. I have never regretted the decision as the rewards far outweigh the distance.

After numerous years working as a director and Plant manager for Aurora Health Care and later Goodwill Industries of Southeastern WI. I semi retired in January 2012, now working two or three days a week doing customer relations and sales.

In the past I have served at Mt. Zion on the Stewardship committee, Leadership board, and as Church Council president during the years of Pastor Skogman. I later did ushering, greeting, stewardship, grounds cleanup, etc.

We are a congregation with a rich past and a very promising future and I humbly look forward to serving on the Leadership board.

Mt Zion Balance Sheet - All Funds December 31, 2012

Assets			Liabilities and Fund Bala	nce	95
Cash and Money Market					
Operating Fund	\$	63,359	Accounts Payable	\$	60,533
Building Fund	\$	32,158	Accruals	\$	13,460
Endowment Fund	\$	24,581	Prepaid Pledges	\$	3,024
Other	\$	51,777			
Subtotal Short Term	\$	171,875	Subtotal Short Term	\$	77,017
			Mortgage	\$	2,876,470
Long-term Assets .	٠			_	
Endowment Fund	\$	122,502	Contingency Reserve	\$	57,500
			Fund Balances	-	
Fixed Assets			Operating Fund	\$	(7,730)
Computer/Office Equipment	\$	15,182	Building Fund	\$	3,213,668
Furniture & Fixtures	\$	10,932	Endowment Fund	\$	147,083
Building & Grounds	\$	6,057,980	Other Funds	\$	14,463
Subtotal	\$	6,084,094	Total Fund Balances	\$	3,367,484
Total Assets	\$	6,378,471	Total Liabilities and Funds	\$	6,378,471

Mt Zion Building Fund Cash Flows

· ·	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Projected
Income			
Contributions - pledged	180,000	187,319	180,000
Contributions - unpledged	8,000	8,320	. 8,000
Donations for principal paydown		6,897	15,000
Donations for loan repayment	13,000	18,146	ь,
Total Income	201,000	220,682	203,000
Expense .			
Expenses		(7,347)	. (5,000)
Repayment of Endowment Loan	(13,000)	(18,146)	-
Regular Mortgage Payments	(204,000)	(186,557)	(194,000)
Mortgage Jan-Oct	(160,000)		
Nov/December	(44,000)		
Extra Principal payments			(22,000)
Deferred Interest paid 9/22	(50,000)	(50,000)	700
Total Expenses	(267,000)	(262,050)	(221,000)
Net Cash Surplus (Deficit)	(66,000)	(41,368)	(18,000)
Cash Balance	7,526	32,158	14,158

Wt Zion Operating Fund

Contributions		2012 Budget	2012 Actuals	2013 Budget
Pledged	Support and Revenue		,	
Unpledged 78,000 58,320 70,000 Bequest 32,000 71,000 32,000 Special one-time 8,976 Hollday Offerings 5,700 5,100 5,100 Loose/Visitor 9,300 9,360 9,300 Other Fundraising	Contributions			
Bequest 32,000 71,000 32,000 Special one-time 8,976 Holiday Offerings 5,700 5,100 5,100 Loosel/fisitor 9,300 9,360 9,300 9,300 9,300 9,300 9,300 9,300 0,300	Pledged	445,000	421,195	413,000
Special cine-time Holiday Offerings 5,700 5,100 5,100 Loose/Visitor 9,300 9,360 9,300 Cother Fundraising	Unpledged	78,000	58,320	70,000
Holiday Offerings 5,700 5,100 5,100 1,000	Bequest	32,000	71,000	32,000
Content Pundraising Other events (incl Scrip) 3,500 2,511 2,500 Interest/dividend Income 1,200 200 Income for synod donation 573,500 577,662 532,100 Content Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,274 1,300 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 381 400 Condition Total Support and Revenue 585,600 586,904 541,600 Expenses (By Ministry)	Special one-time		8,976	
Conservisitor 9,300 9,360 9,300 0,30	-	5,700	5,100	5,100
Other events (incl Scrip) Interest/dividend Income Income 3,500 1,200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200		9,300	9,360	9,300
Interest/dividend Income 1,200 200 Income for synod donation 573,500 577,662 532,100 Other Income Rental Income Rental Income Registrations/weddings/funeral 5,100 1,274 1,300 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 Goods and Items Sold 381 400 Total Support and Revenue 585,600 586,904 541,600 Expenses (By Ministry) Welcoming and Gathering 1,500 2,885 1,400 Hospitality 4,000 5,721 3,950 Connecting 300 316 300 Preparing and Strengthening Music 8,500 11,386 9,200 Worship 4,700 4,937 4,000 Education 5,800 6,149 5,450 Administration 25,500 22,886 22,300 Property 44,500 47,862 65,000 Utilities 53,200 48,005 47,500 Pastoral & Staff Compensation 405,500 407,307 353,000 Sending and Serving Compassion Care 700 1,146 1,050 Giving Support 3,600 3,057 3,000 Outreach (synod and other) 27,200 25,458 25,005 Total Expenses 585,000 587,115 541,155	Other Fundraising			
Income for synod donation 573,500 577,662 532,100	Other events (incl Scrip)	3,500	2,511	2,500
Colher Income Rental Income Rental Income Registrations/weddings/funeral S,100 1,274 1,300 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 381 400 40	Interest/dividend Income		1,200	200
Rental Income 5,000 5,767 5,800 Registrations/weddings/funeral 5,100 1,274 1,300 Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 Goods and Items Sold 381 400	Income for synod donation	573,500	577,662	532,100
Registrations/weddings/funeral Pastoral/staff Gifts 2,000 1,820 2,000 381 400	Other Income			
Pastoral/staff Gifts Goods and Items Sold 2,000 1,820 2,000 Total Support and Revenue 585,600 586,904 541,600 Expenses (By Ministry) Welcoming and Gathering Inviting 1,500 2,885 1,400 Hospitality 4,000 5,721 3,950 Connecting 300 316 300 Preparing and Strengthening Music 8,500 11,386 9,200 Worship 4,700 4,937 4,000 Education 5,800 6,149 5,450 Administration 25,500 22,886 22,300 Property 44,500 47,862 65,000 Utilities 53,200 48,005 47,500 Pastoral & Staff Compensation 405,500 407,307 353,000 Sending and Serving 700 1,146 1,050 Giving Support 3,600 3,057 3,000 Outreach (synod and other) 27,200 25,458 25,005	Rental Income	•	•	-
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Nyiting 1,500 2,885 1,400 Hospitality 4,000 5,721 3,950 300 316 300 300 316 300 300 316 300 300 316 300 300 316 300 300 316 300 300 316 300	Total Support and Revenue	585,600	586,904	541,600
Inviting	Expenses (By Ministry)			
Hospitality	Welcoming and Gathering			
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Preparing and Strengthening Music 8,500 11,386 9,200 Worship 4,700 4,937 4,000 Education 5,800 6,149 5,450 Administration 25,500 22,886 22,300 Property 44,500 47,862 65,000 Utilities 53,200 48,005 47,500 Pastoral & Staff Compensation 405,500 407,307 353,000 Sending and Serving Compassion Care 700 1,146 1,050 Giving Support 3,600 3,057 3,000 Outreach (synod and other) 27,200 25,458 25,005 Total Expenses	Hospitality	4,000	5,721	3,950
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			-	
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Surplus(deficit) 600 (211) 445	Lordi Evhetiana		-	V71330
	Surplus(deficit)	600	(211)	445

Mt. Zion Endowment Fund Statement of Fund Activities For the Year Ended 12/31/12

Endowment Fund Assets 12/31/11	\$135,469	
Receipts and Income		
Contributions Received Investment Dividend and Interest Income Interest Income on Loan to Mt. Zion Capital Gain Income (Net of Capital Losses) Total Receipts and Income	\$1,228 2,836 799 <u>8,786</u>	\$13,649
Disbursements and Expenses		
Congregation Member Lutheran College Scholarship Partial Reversal of Interest Income on Loan to Mt. Zion Total Disbursements and Expenses	\$2,000 <u>35</u>	<u>\$2,035</u>
Endowment Fund Assets 12/31/12		\$147,083
2011 Investment Portfolio Yield Based on Average Invested	Balances	1.17%
2012 Investment Portfolio Yield Based on Average Invested Balances		
Mt. Zion Endowment Balance Sheet <u>As of 12/31/12</u>	Fund	
Balance Sheet	Fund \$24,581 122,502	\$147,083
Balance Sheet As of 12/31/12 Assets Cash Mutual Fund Investments	\$24,581	\$147,083
Assets Cash Mutual Fund Investments Total Assets	\$24,581	\$147,083

2012 Mt. Zion Ministries

Your prayerful gifts are used for numerous ministries at Mt. Zion.

A year in review and your gracious gifts . . .

Christmas Has a Heart	\$ 6,693 to 10 local outreach services & Mt. Zion ministries
Endowment Fund Loan Repayment	\$18,146
Endowment Scholarships	\$2,000
Building Mortgage Principal Reduction	\$7,048
Needy Family / Disaster Relief	\$605
Energy Assistance	\$ 919
Greater Tosa Interfaith MOM	\$367
Lenten Offerings – used for mission	\$968
TOSA Cares	\$2,070
Good Samaritan / Fundraising for Blake	\$4,691
Reformation Partnership	\$3,316
School Supplies monetary donations	\$517
Helping Hands	\$537
World Hunger	\$455
Building Fund Memorials	\$5,896
Sound System	\$49,704
Rotation Sunday School	
children's offerings	.\$770
Synod Benevolence	\$33,095
Pastor / Staff gifts	\$ 1,820
\$ 2,860 in items members purchased for the c	hurch without reimbursement
Prayer Shawls Given Out	Over 50 in 2012, over 500 total
Operation Christmas	\$ Over 100 gifts of \$20 to \$25
Mittens, Hats, Socks, etc.	\$ hundreds of dollars in donations

OVER \$103,922 IN DESIGNATED DOLLARS FOR MINISTRY GIVEN, OVER \$38,545 GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FOR BENEVOLENCE

YOUR GENERAL FUND PLEDGE PROVIDES FOR OUR OPERATING BUDGET TO FACILITATE THE MINISTRIES OF MT. ZION WITHOUT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE OR OVERHEAD - 100% OF YOUR DESIGNATED OFFERINGS FOR MISSION IS USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. MT. ZION IS SUPPORTED SOLELY BY YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

THANK YOU for your continued support and love. These ministries would not be possible without you.

Mt. Zion Leadership and Executive Team Pastor Steve - Pastor Deb

Continual programs & services offered . . .

Mt. Zion Book Club

Community Bible Study

Special Guest Nights

AA & ACOA meetings

Blood Drives

Spiritual & Grief Counseling

Collection of School Supplies

Collection of Mittens, Socks, Hats

TOSA Cares Food & Clothing Pantry

Adult Forums

First Communion Classes

Women's Bible Study

Education Advisory Team

New Member Classes

Lenten Services

Prayer Group

Sunday School Children's Choir

Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals

Movie Club

Co-Partnership with the YMCA

Senior Lunches

Financial Peace University

Synod gatherings at Mt. Zion

Partners in Faith Dinners & Study

Visitation / Homebound Ministry

Love Circle

Collection of Hygiene Products

Office, Property Assistance Volunteers

Love & Logic Classes

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Confirmation Program & Mentors

Rotation Sunday School

Coffee Hour Ministry

Brown Bag Bible Study

Festival Bells, Voices of Zion

Dine & Discover

Home Bible Study Groups

Parking for Tosa Health Department Clinics

Evening Educational Community Forums with Dr. Dudley Riggle

Worship Facilitation

Lay Preaching

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Communion Deacons

Lectors Ushers

Greeters

Altar Care

Offering Stewards

Nursery Care

Bulletin Stuffers

Youth Ministry

Workcamp

Youth Quake

Youth Forum

Youth Service Projects

Youth Gathering

Special Guests Event

Fellowship Activities

Mount Zion Leadership Board and Staff

Deborah Ohrtman, Pastor Phone: (262) 439-8503 Cell: (414) 255-6136

Email: dohrtman@mtzionlutheran.org

Steven Ohrtman,, Pastor Phone: (262) 439-8503 Cell: (262) 402-8865

Email: sohrtman@mtzionlutheran.org

Michael Naumann, LB President

Phone: (262) 827-2834

Email: mnaumann1@wi.rr.com

Sue Jurgens, LB Vice President

Phone: (414) 875-7949 Email: runscj@gmail.com

Rondi Rohr-Dralle, LB Treasurer

Phone: (262) 641-9801 Email: rdralle@wi.rr.com

Elizabeth Casper, LB Secretary

Phone: (262) 782-9339

Email: elizabethcasper23@gmail.com

Pat Campbell, Leadership Board

Phone: (414) 491-1119

Email: patcampbell@core.com

Joe Driscoll, Leadership Board

Phone: (414) 852-6659

Email: joedriscoll.4@gmail.com

Jeanne Finn, Leadership Board

Phone: (262) 786-6228 Email: jjfinn1@sbcglobal.net

Gary Goll, Leadership Board

Phone: (262) 246-1725 Email: ggoll@wi.rr.com

John Link, Leadership Board Phone: (414) 462-0001 Email: jmlink@milwpc.com Jim McTaggart, Leadership Board

Phone: (262) 784-6535

Email: Jim.McTaggart@enerpac.com

Karen Pedderson, Leadership Board

Phone: (262) 242-3662

Email: deneen44@sbcglobal.net

Thaurra Stallings, LB Reformation Liaison

Phone: (414) 444-0440

Email: stillonhisjourney@hotmail.com

Christine Bremer, Parish Administrator

Phone: (414) 257-1725 Cell: (262) 385-6394

Email: cbremer@mtzionlutheran.org

Julia Bryant, Volunteer Sunday School

Superintendent

Phone: (414) 226-6619

Email: bryant.julia48@att.net

Robert Christiansen, Custodian

Phone: (414) 774-3876

Email: marleen120@wi.rr.com

Donna Harder, Volunteer Office Assistant

Phone: (414) 541-1754

Email: winterdragonfire@aol.com

Mark Jasso, Contemporary Worship Leader, Youth

Director

Phone: (414) 248-8989

Email: markjasso57@gmail.com

Carol Libecki, Publications Editor

Phone: (262) 696-8081

Email: carol.libecki@gmail.com

Larry Shrode, Worship Musician

Phone: (262) 565-8960

Email: shrodelarry@hotmail.com

Paul Thompson, Choral Director

Phone: (920) 904-1874

Email: tenor114@gmail.com

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. We are a church rooted in Scripture, tradition, the Lutheran Confessions and the rich histories of our congregations. It is through God's grace that we are made new day by day to proclaim Jesus Christ and boldly participate in God's work. As Luther said, this faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we get to look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church. We celebrate the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods, and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our communities, our cities, our nation and around the world.

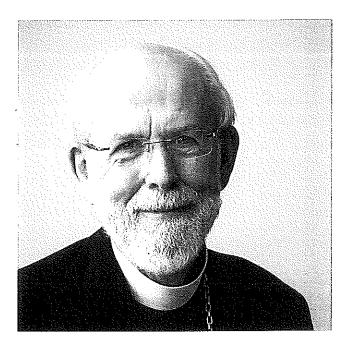
What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating! In 25 years, we have:

- started 435 congregations
- · theologicaly trained nearly 8,000 leaders
- sent thousands of missionaries to serve around the world

Thank you for your partnership in proclaiming God's reconciliation in Christ and restoring community.

As we embark on a year-long celebration of this church's 25th anniversary in 2013, consider how the Holy Spirit continues to guide your personal and congregational decisions about responding faithfully to the gifts God has entrusted to us. Your generosity makes possible God's work in the world, offering hope, compassion and an eagerness to share. Together we help ensure that the ministry of word and sacrament flourishes in our communities through local outreach. We offer hope for those seeking to feel safe and welcomed, and we gather with other faith groups to deepen understanding of one another and to work for peace. We stand up against violence and teach generations of young people that they can change the world.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"



In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. It is through our willingness as a church to boldly participate in God's work in the world that we are made new day by day. I am grateful for your generosity. God is working both in us and through us!

Thanks be to God!

In God's grace,

Mark S. Hanson Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jarte S. Hamson

Why we give

Our financial generosity is an expression of our love for God and for our neighbor and for ourselves. We are new people in Christ: compassionate and eager to participate in God's work in the world. A critical component of what we do together is the offering made by you and your congregation that is shared with synods and churchwide ministries. We call this Mission Support, which makes it possible for ELCA members from Alaska to the Caribbean to be responsive as one church to exciting new opportunities for ministry.

Who we are

We are a church that is deeply rooted — and always being made new. While the ELCA is still comparatively new as a church body, our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. Our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16th century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the Scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God's steadfast love and mercy. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the world who meet us at Christ's table of grace.

What we celebrate

Together we accompany our nearly 10,000 congregations as they develop mission plans to engage with their communities, whether it be in supporting their local evangelism and outreach efforts, sustaining local homeless shelters and food pantries, or responding anywhere else congregations see a need. We are also committed to growing courageous, wise and faithful leaders. And through The Lutheran World Federation, ELCA members are engaged in a global communion of 143 member churches in 79 countries all over the world. The ELCA is the federation's only member church from the United States.

Your support makes all ELCA ministries possible here at home and abroad. Your undesignated gifts to ELCA ministries through Mission Support are used where needs are the greatest, and gifts also make it possible for synods and churchwide ministries to keep ongoing commitments to ministry partners.

Our strategic approach

ELCA churchwide ministries has two strategic priorities, which help shape our decisions and activities:

- Accompany congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission
- Build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace

Our nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and churchwide ministries engage in mission together and this is made possible through financial giving. Together we do God's work in the world in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone

What is Mission Support?

Mission Support is the portion of regular offering that your congregation shares with your synod and churchwide ministries for God's mission beyond your congregation. This support is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA, providing a significant portion of budgeted support that enables the start of new congregations and renewal of existing ones. These funds also provide the staff and resources to develop new leaders, support churches around the world, work for justice, end poverty and so much more.

Mission Support is a small percentage of your weekly offering. Many synods encourage congregations to set a goal of 10 percent or greater, while the rest of your offering (nearly 90 percent) remains within your congregation. You help pay for local ministries, outreach, salaries, utilities and the building, ensuring your congregation's vital presence in your community.

