

The Messenger

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church January 2015



Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

What does that mean, and do we believe it?

This passage and these questions strike a chord in us. Promises are broken every day in this world. Even those close to us sometimes fail to keep their word, and we always hear how something or someone is supposed to be good for us, at least until the other person gets what they want.

Jeremiah is sharing God's promise to a people that have seen Israel split in two over controversies and enemies circling like a wolf looking for a meal. Hopes and dreams, then and now, seem distant and perhaps unobtainable. The glory days of David and Solomon are long gone, and the cold reality of the present nips at their heels no matter how fast they try to run from it.

God says Israel and Zion and all of God's people have a future with hope. A future that is not far away and after we die, but rather a future with hope in this lifetime, in this place called Hamilton. A future that only requires us to be still and listen to God's voice as He calls us into what He plans for us as individuals and as a congregation. This future is greater and better for us than anything we could have dreamed for ourselves. The Shepherd calls us to greener pastures, but sometimes we stay in the dying pastures because the known is always more comfortable and certain than the unknown.

And yet, we see time and again that God keeps His promise to us whether it be through the life of Jesus, manna in the wilderness, the walls of Jericho falling down or even something as blessed as the gift of Christian community where we can love, encourage and walk with each other and God no matter what happens. God blesses us with a new year every year full of opportunities. God blesses us with a blank

slate that we can with His assistance write a new story better than each prior story. We know that on our own we often repeat stories that do not always end well, but God's story for us always ends well. We have hope because of a baby, a baptism, the Lord's Supper and an empty tomb. Not even our worst mistakes, failings and doubts/fears can overcome God's actions and His Promise to us. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This is most certainly true! Have a blessed New Year! Come back ready for the ministry and the future that God is blessing us with as we experience together God's plan for us in 2015 and beyond!

Pastor Joe Schrock



The Kaelin family would like to extend an invitation to our church family to join us at an Open house Celebration of Shirley Kaelin's 80th birthday January 11, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 (cake sing at 1:30 pm) in Zion's Auditorium (Also known as the gym.) No gifts please - your presence is the gift.



Women of Zion, as disciples of Christ, are called to grow in faith, discover and use our gifts, and serve in our communities at home and throughout the world.

Thanks You

During this past year, I have been highlighting some of the Women of Zion's Standing Committees and their chairs. In many cases, the chairwoman is a committee of one.

Curator of Great Hall Display Cabinet: This person keeps the display cabinet in the Great Hall filled with memorabilia current to the season of the church. I know that both members and visitors have enjoyed viewing the displays over the past years. Thank you Karen Pflaumer for being our Curator.

Sunshine Committee: This committee sends greeting cards to shut-ins, hospitalized members, and service personnel's birthdays. Julia Hilbert chairs this standing committee. Julia also helps to organize Zion Women's **Book Club.** The Book Club meets the first Tuesday of the month to discuss selected books.

As one year comes to an end and another begins, I want to give thanks to all the women of Zion who give endless hours of their time to support all of our committees and projects.

I would especially like to thank the members of the Women's Executive Board: Joan Cunningham, Lori Rehm, Anita Snyder, Thelma Martin, and Joan Boling. Besides attending monthly board meetings and assuming the responsibilities of their office, they are also actively involved in many other projects, committees, and services at Zion. All of these women have been serving on the executive board for at least two years, and many for five or more years.

With regrets and a big thank-you, we say good-bye to Joan Boling. She has held the office of Mission-Community for the past two years. She has been a valuable member of our board. Thank you, Joan.

Time is Running Out!

You have until January 31st to order and purchase the Women's Famous Shaker Soup Mix. You may order by placing your name on the sign-up form in the Great Hall or by calling the church office or Thelma Martin (892-6088).

ZLCW Board Meeting December 7, 2014

The Women of Zion Executive Board met on Sunday, December 7. All six board members were present.

- Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand is \$3,982.00. Total expenses for the month was \$1,110.87, which included purchasing of Portals of Prayer, donation towards installation of outdoor sign, and expenses for the December general meeting. Receipts from Thankoffering and soup sale totaled \$1,001.28.
- Board voted to divide Thankoffering receipts of \$916.28 evenly between the ELCW and the Zion Emergency Fund.
- Decided to move board meetings to the second Sunday of each month, meeting from 9:20 – 10:20 as needed.
- Approved some changes to the standing committees
- Reviewed bereavement teams and discussed need for more team members, especially in February.
- Decided to return to having General meetings on Monday evenings due to poor attendance at Sunday General meetings this past year.
- Still in need of someone to fill the Vice-President position, and Mission-Community position for the 2015.

Women of Zion 2015 Board Members

Several members of the 2014 executive board have agreed to serve in the same capacity for 2014. Meeting day and time for 2015 has been changed to the second Sunday of the month. The returning officers are:

- President: Gail Heitz
- Vice President: Open Position
- Secretary: Joan Cunningham
- Treasurer: Lori Rehm
- Mission-Action: Anita Snyder
- Mission-Community: Open Position
- Mission- Growth: Thelma Martin

The executive board works as a team, sharing the workload of each office. We are working to fill these open positions. Please contact one of the board members if you would be willing to serve on our board or help on any of the women's committees.

Installation of board members and committee chairs will take place at both Sunday morning services later in January.

Women's December General Meeting

The December Women's General Meeting was held on Monday, Dec. 1st at 6:30 in Zion's auditorium. There were twenty-six members in attendance at this meeting. The meeting began with a short game, which was followed by a light meal of pizza, salad, and cookies. Prayer pals were revealed and gifts exchanged. The meeting ended with the singing of Christmas carols and a cookie exchange. Items were brought in to be given to Dove House and an offering was collected for Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center...

A big **thank you** to the hostesses for this meeting: Gayle Ford, Robin Kaelin, and Helen Timmer. Everyone enjoyed the festive table decorations, games, and pizza! Also, **thank you** Kathy Chambers and Barbara Shearer for leading the singing of the Christmas Carols.

Portals of Prayer

Copies of this quarterly devotion booklet are available to the congregation in the back of the church, the lounge, and the office. The suggested donation is \$2. Everyone is invited to take one, for yourself, and to share with others. Copies are also given to our shut-ins.

A very big THANK YOU to Doris Theiss, who for many years has been making sure these devotional books are made available to our church members. Her service has been greatly appreciated. Thank you, Doris for your years of service as committee chair. You will be missed.

Volunteer opportunity!!

We are in need of someone who is willing to volunteer about 1 hour every three months to distribute the Portal of Prayer booklets at Zion and to mail them to our shut-ins. If you would be willing to take over this responsibility, please contact Julia Hilbert in the church office or one of Zion's Board members. **Thank you to Heidi Wolfe for taking on this job.

2015 Women's Booklets

The 2015 booklets will be available for distribution in mid-January. You will be able to pick up your copy in the Great Hall. Each booklet contains the annual program, telling about the Women of Zion organization, descriptions of our numerous committees, and our on-going projects.

Every woman at Zion is a member of the Women of Zion Organization. Please be sure to get your copy. Contact the church office or a board member if you would like to help on one of the committees or programs.

Thankoffering Boxes

Thankoffering boxes are being made available to **all** members of the congregation this year. These can be found in the Great Hall.

It is suggested that you place your Thankoffering container in a conspicuous location, so that it can be a reminder that our family, church, friends, health, and material things are all gifts from God.



Prescription Bottles



Many thanks to those of you who have been bringing your prescription bottles in. The program has been a great success. We hope that you will continue to bring your prescription bottles in. They are taken to Matthew Ministries and used for prescription medicines in developing countries.

So.....Drop off EMPTY pill bottles in the container in the Great Hall. We accept prescription pill bottles and over-the-counter pill bottles (such as vitamins). Please be sure to rinse bottles and remove labels. You can also drop a nickel, dime or quarter in them to help with postage. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help people in developing countries as well as recycling those bottles; making sure they don't end up in a landfill here.

Box Tops for Education

Please save Box Tops for Education (on General Mills Products), and Campbell's Soup labels. These are collected at various City of Hamilton elementary schools to pay for field trips. There is a container in the lounge to put them in. We will see that they get to an elementary school that can use them. Thanks.



Our annual congregational meeting will be held on January 25 at all services. We will be voting on the 2015 nominating committee and going over the annual report. Please plan on being here.



BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

The Book of the Month Club will meet on Tuesday, January 6 to watch a movie and have dinner, right in Zion's lounge. We're watching *Marjorie Morningstar*, starring Natalie Wood and Gene Kelly, which was a book we discussed earlier this year. Barbecue and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish to share.

Then, on Tuesday, February 3, we'll meet to discuss *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. Harry Potter has no idea how famous he is. That's because he's being raised by his miserable aunt and uncle who are terrified Harry will learn that he's really a wizard, just as his parents were. But everything changes when Harry is summoned to attend an infamous school for wizards, and he begins to discover some clues about his illustrious birthright. From the surprising way he is greeted by a lovable giant, to the unique curriculum and colorful faculty at his unusual school, Harry finds himself drawn deep inside a mystical world he never knew existed and closer to his own noble destiny.

Plan on joining us in the church lounge at 6:30 p.m. for these discussions. We always welcome new people.



TAILS FROM GOD

As part of the *Tails From God* ministry, Zion has a recycling program to benefit the Animal Friends Humane Society. Simply bring in your used printer cartridges, cells phones, toner cartridges, PDAs, and MP3 Players and put them in the recycling box in the church office. They will be packaged, shipped and sent to eCycle Group (www.ecyclegroup.com) and the money given to the Animal Friends Humane Society. This is a wonderful opportunity to be good stewards of God's creation by protecting the environment and the abused and neglected animals in Butler County. If you have questions, please contact Karen Conklin, 513-889-7770.

Reminder from Tails From God ministry. There is a box in the Great Hall for donations to Animal Friends Humane Society. Clorox bleach, powdered laundry soap, all sizes heavy garbage bags, AAA Duracell or Energizer batteries, and first class postage stamps are always on the "wish list." Any questions, call Karen Conklin, 513-863-0532.



Zion Seniors

The Young at Heart, a social group for those 55 and over, will be eating lunch at the Neal's Barbecue on Third Street in Hamilton on Tuesday, January 27. We'll meet at the restaurant at 11:15. Please sign the sheet in the great hall if you would like to go along on either or both of these outings.

We encourage all our seniors or almost seniors to go along for these fun outings. It gives you a chance to get to know your fellow church members.

OPEN DOOR PANTRY HELP

An opportunity to help The Open Door Pantry – and it won't cost a thing! The pantry requires many plastic bags (like the ones you get at the grocery store), and when those bags are not donated, they have to buy bags. Please consider saving your plastic bags and bringing them to the church during the first week of each month. The bags should be left in Room 201 of the Sunday School wing and either I or another volunteer will see that they get to the pantry. Also, the pantry can use empty egg cartons if you would save those. Thank you in advance.

Lori Rehm

Mark Your Calendars!

Zion is participating in the planning and enjoyment of the Community Picnic, which will take place at the Booker T. Washington Community Center on June 20, 2015. Several Zion members are on the committee that is planning the picnic. Please mark your calendar and plan on being part of the important community event. Watch future Messengers and bulletins for details as they become available.

Congregations grow when members invite their friends to worship and fellowship activities.



Chili Cook Off

Saturday, January 17th

6:00 pm at Zion

Join us for our annual Chili Cook Off filled with food, fun and fellowship!

Bring your favorite chili or any side dishes that you would like. Prizes will be awarded for the top chili recipes. Dessert will be provided.

Don't forget your beverage of choice, favorite game and a few friends!

Babysitting provided





Thanks to our December bulletin stuffers: Joan Boling, Tom & Barb Toman, Thelma Martin, Cindy Burkhart, and Lori Rehm.

Pastor Meyers with Wernle Home would like to thank the Women of Zion for the generous donation to Wernle Home. It helps them give the children a nice Christmas.

Thank you to the individuals who delivered Meals on Wheels in December: Tammy & Mike Adams, Phil & Karen Pflaumer, Dave & Carolyn Schul, Kay & Ron Erbeck, Patti Sroufe and Dennis Steele.

A special thanks goes to the above people plus Carolyn Soupene, Lori Rehm, Inas & Carl Clark who diligently delivered meals all year long even in the bad winter weather we had earlier this year. Also, much appreciation goes to Ray & Marge Withrow, who delivered 10 months this year, and Ron & Kay Erbeck and Phil & Karen Pflaumer, who were always very willing to substitute when called upon. I'm sure the individuals receiving these meals are most grateful for your faithfulness and I appreciate everyone making my assignment much easier. Thank you and have a blessed New Year.

We are looking for volunteers willing to deliver meals to seniors whose mobility is limited. We have presently a great group of regular deliverers, but we need more substitutes to fill in periodically. Zion delivers 5 days a week once a month (the second full week of each month), Monday through Friday. The route starts at 9:30, requiring you to pick up food at Partners in Prime on Ross Avenue at 9:15 and takes only about an hour. Two people deliver together each day. **Would you be willing to substitute as needed?** A contact person at Partners in Prime provides all information you need to make the deliveries and if there is anything I can do, I am more than willing to assist. Please call me at 513-844-6395 or jcoe2@cinci.rr.com if you can assist with this ministry. Thank you.

JoAnette Coe



You will note that our prayer list in this publication has been reduced from our last installment. Everyone needs prayer. But in order to keep our list relevant and up to date, we will be automatically removing names from the list after 30 days. A note or phone call to the office or pastor is all that is needed to continue or add a name to the list. Please let us know if a name needs to be added or removed.

Please pray for:

- Jennifer Seckel had surgery on Christmas Eve
- Jane Day for health issues
- Helen & John Timmer for the beginning of their new life and they move to Indian Lake
- The family of David Christian who passed away on December 17
- Elaine Carpenter had emergency appendectomy on December 7
- The family of Ernie Lauer who passed away on December 19
- Lauren Smallwood for personal reasons
- Don Urmston
- Marjorie McGill for shingles
- Family of Dr. Joe Toman who passed away on December 21
- Joe Lucas, recovering from cancer
- The family of Florence Hofmann who passed away on December 29
- The family of Joy Merrill who passed away on December 29
-

Have you remembered

Zion

in your Will?



**Council Minutes
November 11, 2014**

- Attending:** Ken Gerold, Joan Boling, Pr. Joe Schrock, Bob Herald, Ron Erbeck, Shari Gerold, Joe Sears, Robin Kaelin, Steve Herget, Emily Sears, Gayle Ford, Leanne Bowling, Lou Robinson & Derek Conklin. **Excused:** Kathy Chambers, Barb Toman, Mike Frye, Mike Ford, & Lori Rehm.
- **Motion** (J Boling/S Gerold) and passed to accept the October Council Minutes.
 - **Pastor Report:** Deaconess Carmen Colon Brown visited with us and spoke on how she would love to work with us in a Latino Ministry in Hamilton and that she looks forward to seeing how that ministry might grow.
 - **Presidents Report:** Thanked Carmen for coming and spoke on how this could be a great mission opportunity, everyone appeared to agree.
 - **Motion** (S Herget/S Gerold) and passed to accept treasurer's report.
 - **Worship & Music:** met with a possible musician/liturgist for Sunday evening service.
 - **Youth & Family:** we have one youth looking at attending Detroit 2015 event. We are trying to work out a combined trip with Darrrtown and Faith Oxford.
 - **Motion** (R Kaelin/S Gerold) and passed for three registrations to be purchased for 2015 Youth Gathering. Those attending are Samantha Bowling, Emily Sears, and Robin Kaelin.
 - **Trustees:** Joe Sears Motion to spend up to \$16,500 to purchase a 4x6x7 double faced, full color LED sign. Price includes installation, electrical, PC based software, training, limited lifetime warrantee. Motion came from Executive Committee so does not need a second. Passed with 10 for and 2 against.
 - **Motion** (R Kaelin/S Gerold) and passed to adjourn.



The following shut-in is celebrating her birthday in January. All members of Zion are encouraged to send a card, make a phone call or visit a shut-in. You'll find that you are being a blessing and receiving a blessing yourself from these contacts.

Monthly statistics

**Financial Stewardship
(as of November 30, 2014)**

	Income	Expenses
2013	\$18,648.39	\$18,386.37
2014	\$22,722.34	\$32,979.85

YTD Operating Funds

	Income	Expenses	Balance
2013	\$193,554	\$220,357	
2014	\$184,131	\$257,940	-\$47,160.02

Attendance Averages (December)

Church Atten.	Sun. Comm.	Christmas Eve
108	96	259

Member's Deaths

- David Christian (December 17, 2014)
- Florence Hofmann (December 29, 2014)
- Joy Merrill (December 29, 2014)



New flowers charts are hanging in the hallway outside of the lounge. There is a chart for Altar Flowers and a chart for Flowers on the Pedestals. The cost for the two altar vases is \$30 for both and the pedestal flowers are \$15 each. If you would like to supply flowers for church, please sign up for the dates you would like them and Julia will call you the week before your date.

Our flowers are provided by Bryans Flowers in Fairfield. If you have pedestal flowers please return the plastic containers holding the flowers. The florist would like to have those back to reuse. It keeps our costs down and helps the environment.

Mrs. Shirley Kaelin 1/17
 6350 Hankins Rd.
 Middletown, OH 45044

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Date	Acolyte 8:00 a.m.	Acolyte 10:30 a.m.
January 4	Usher Team	Patrick Huston
January 11	Usher Team	Alex Bruner
January 18	Usher Team	Eric Bowling
January 25	Usher Team	Marissa Lombardi

Altar Guild: Laura Sharratt, Karla Schmidt

Ushers: Volunteers Needed (8:00)
 Ken Gerold & team (10:30)

Lectors: **Jan 4** Gail Heitz (8:00); Thelma Martin (10:30)
Jan 11 Mike Heitz (8:00); Holly Frye (10:30)
Jan 18 Peggy Thomin (8:00); Ken Gerold (10:30)
Jan 25 Gayle Ford (8:00); Lori Rehm (10:30)

Greeters: **Jan 4** Lori Rehm (10:30)
Jan 11 Joe & Joni Copas (10:30)
Jan 18 George & Janis Reed (10:30)
Jan 25 Volunteer Needed (10:30)

Eucharist Assistants: **Jan 4** Tom & Barb Toman (8:00); Shari Gerold, Carolyn Soupene (10:30)
Jan 11 Wayne & Patrice Huston (8:00); Ken Gerold, Marge Withrow (10:30)
Jan 18 Anita Snyder, Tillie Adams (8:00); Robin Kaelin, Phil Pflaumer (10:30)
Jan 25 Barb Toman, Stephanie Heitz (8:00); Kathy Chambers, Shari Gerold (10:30)

Radio: **Jan 4** Lou Robinson
Jan 11 Adam Reed
Jan 18 Ron Alcorn
Jan 25 Charles Kaelin

Bulletin Stuffers: **Jan 2** Joan Boling
Jan 9 Barb & Tom Toman
Jan 16 Thelma Martin
Jan 23 Lori Rehm
Jan 30 Sandy Parker

Offering Counters: **Jan 4** Steve Herget, Ken Gerold
Jan 11 Gayle Ford, Mike Frye
Jan 18
Jan 25

Nursery: Samantha Bowling

The mission of Zion is to
Encourage
 a growing faith in Jesus Christ and to

Equip

all people for witness and service.