



2021-2022 Annual Report

Zion – "Ministries Under the Cross"
Deerfield Beach, Florida



President's Report

Dr. Robin L. Larson

Greetings, my siblings in Christ!



This year, as we gather for our Annual Congregation Meeting and I reflect over the last year of mission and ministry together, I want to highlight a few things:

We are building the Kingdom of God together!

Our ministry in Evergreen Academy is thriving! We have a truly dedicated team of teachers and staff who make sure that the most precious people – CHILDREN - are well-cared for and surrounded by the love that Jesus inspires.

Our ministry in partnership with Deerfield Beach Community Cares is exploding! They are using empty office space that we have, and they have been reaching people in this community, especially as it relates to the mental health and wellbeing of our youth. Cantor Kurt Schmidt's report shares more about this exciting partnership and what the future holds for social ministry opportunities in this community.

- The use of unused space in our Katie Luther Chapel area (which is also financially supported by a generous bequeathment in honor of Dr. Nina McClelland) is such an incredibly inspiring project...I only hope that some of you want to latch on to this. How can you envision this space serving our community?
- Especially for those who love to cook: What time might you be able to contribute if we were able to prepare meals for the hungry in a newly-configured kitchen? My word. I would spend every available minute I had if I could really bring to others in need the blessings that God has given me. I love to cook and would spend time cooking what I could.
- I would be privileged to support people with basic products that I take for granted. I would gladly give feminine hygiene products, socks, underwear, baby-wipes, toothpaste. What about you?

Our ministry through acts of discipleship (Pray Daily, Worship Weekly, Study God's Word, Build Relationships, Serve Joyfully, Give Selflessly) is growing! We have numerous opportunities for worship experiences, Bible studies, monthly fellowship dinners on First Fridays and now LUNCHES on third Tuesdays, book studies, and most recently a "Faith & Film" series. You can "just show up" for any of these opportunities and get inspired.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of eternal witnesses.

I want to take time to honor some very special souls who have joined Jesus in eternal glory: Bill Haar, Rev. Fred Auman, and Doris Jackson. In our Memorial Garden, we also interred Harry Ambrose, Laura Johnson, and Pamela Robert. Thanks be to God for the witness of these saints. May we be so bold as to follow their examples.

We see Christ in the faces of others.

During this last year, we accepted several new members to this congregation, we confirmed several young people, and we baptized children of former members/alumni. These are some "formal" ways that we form the Kingdom of God. More importantly are the people that we reach, in virtual and face-to-face encounters. Nothing gave me more pleasure than to stand and pray with people on Deerfield Beach during Pioneer Days. WOW! The many people who took time to write their prayer requests on our "Prayer Boards" was astounding and inspiring. We focus a lot on Sunday services and who is there, but sometimes we need to be reminded that Jesus and his followers went OUT to others. Think about how God has blessed your life. Why not find ways to share that good news with others? Maybe just talk about the blessings in your life with your friends and coworkers? I'm not shy. And my Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts are pretty clear – I am grateful for God's grace and weekly inspiration through worship and other opportunities for connection. But, basically, I JUST SHOW UP.

We are listening to God and discerning God's call for our next pastor.

We have a vacant pastoral position that we need to consider. This congregation has been in various states of "interim" for several years. Most recently, we had a pastor on a full-time "Term Call" authorized through the Synod. What do YOU want in a pastor? What time are YOU willing to spend discerning this on behalf of this congregation? What does this congregation offer to a pastor looking to help build the Kingdom of God?

We are stewarding an incredible legacy and a sizable physical asset.

We have an incredible campus, which comes with all the responsibility that goes with this ownership. Here are several important updates in that regard:

- We have been negotiating with the charter school this last year on several provisions that we wish to be included in a new short-term use agreement. Our attorneys have facilitated these negotiations on our behalf.
- We have been working on the legal process to split the campus in anticipation of selling the portion currently occupied by the charter school.
- We underwent a 40-year building inspection (electrical and structural) and are working with contractors to address required upgrades.
- We hired a contractor to address damage in the gym, the result of a leaking water-fountain pipe. The repairs being done are part of an insurance claim.
- We have contracted a roofing company for the sanctuary roof and you will soon see this project get underway. This also is part of an insurance claim. In preparation for this work, we had the sanctuary tented for termites.
- We will also be contracting for repair work inside the sanctuary as part of that same insurance claim. One thing you will notice is the removal of the pipe organ – FOR SAFEKEEPING – away from dust that could be harmful to our very precious and important asset.
- We have hired an appraiser to give us an accurate and current valuation of the campus and all the buildings.
- We have sufficient insurance coverage for the campus and all buildings, plus all the liability protections that we require, but the current market for windstorm coverage is exorbitant. Our recent annual windstorm premium increased from \$183,881.26 to \$234,228.76 (a ~28% increase). Overall, our insurance coverage increased from last year, \$227K, to this year \$278K. This does not include Flood Insurance, Worker's Compensation, or Student Accident coverage.

We have been and will be making some serious decisions about this campus. This includes the disposition of many acres of our property. The Congregation Council appreciates your confidence in handling this large property, HOWEVER, we face a long and varied path to travel in the future. We are imploring you to contribute your thoughts on how we proceed. Please consider volunteering time when these issues are managed and handled and thus deliberated, before they are presented to the entire congregation for a vote on how to proceed. Please consider volunteering for a Congregation Council position. Monthly meetings after worship services are the main commitment. Talk to me or Gail or Scotty Mac to learn more.

We are constantly reminded of God's blessings and our faith teaches us to turn those blessings into action. This congregation has many opportunities to build the Kingdom of God by putting our faith into action. Quite frankly, who wouldn't want to be a part of that? Don't you?

Cantor's Report

Cantor Kurt R. Schmidt

Worship & Music • Communications • Community Outreach



Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 NRSVUE

We are one body in Christ—and we do not stand alone.

If the last two years of ministry before, during, and after the heat of COVID-19 has taught me anything, it is that we are not alone. We are not alone because God is always with us, but also because we are “one body in Christ.” At Zion, that means that we are a community of faith, a family of faith, that cares about each other, rejoices with each other, suffers with each other, and invests in the mission and ministry of our “family business” – that is, the Church.

We have had an amazing year of ministry here at Zion, highlighted by our “Year in Review” as a part of this annual report. It was my privilege to be behind-the-scenes at almost all of these events and opportunities, to see us engage with each other and the community, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ outside the borders of our Deerfield Beach campus.

We are one body in Christ—and we do not stand alone.

As I reviewed my report from last year, I’m delighted to say that we’ve put some processes in place to receive and respond to visitors who choose to connect with us, we’ve expanded our social media advertising to event-related boosts and ads across Facebook and Instagram, and we received a \$2,000 synod grant to upgrade our worship technology in the sanctuary—which can finally be done now that the emblematic large cross has been moved. And, an example about our advertising: \$50 spent on Facebook and Instagram in the 5 days leading up to Easter Sunday reached just over 10,000 people online. Our virtual viewership remains steady, and our community continues to grow at a slow and steady pace. (Remember, that pace wins the race.)

Probably the best and biggest positive move in our mission and ministry over the last year has been our partnership with Deerfield Beach Community Cares. What began as a way to get involved in the neighborhood grew into our Health & Wellness Fair and now a solid partnership to improve the lives of people living in Deerfield Beach and the local area. DBCC has received over \$400,000 in funding just this year to sponsor events like our wellness fair, projects like the “Be Kind to Your Mind” boxes, and programs like the upcoming BSO/DFB Bike Program and Youth Summer Leadership Academy. If all goes according to plan, Zion will not only continue to be the “temporary” administrative home of DBCC, but plan, construct, stock, and operate a food pantry and hygiene closet out of our former music room and media center. The best part? It will be funded initially by sponsorship funds and operated by a local partner organization. Over the next year, there will be more than enough opportunities to volunteer, and I hope to see the Zion community “just show up” in spades to serve our community.

We are one body in Christ—and we do not stand alone.

Professionally, this has been a year of strategic gains for me, and I am grateful. In the fall, I completed a certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from the online USF campus in Tampa. In October, I was notified that I was accepted into the Spring 2022 local cohort for the Jim Moran Institute Non-Profit Executive Program. In December, I was invited to join the Deerfield Beach Kiwanis on Zion's behalf. The five month program at JMI proved to be invaluable both in gaining skills to improve Zion and other non-profits, and in the work I completed to satisfy the program requirements: a business model canvas and action plan for Zion. More about that below, marked (JMI) after each recommendation. In the last month, I had the opportunity to present on the community model of Deerfield Beach Community Cares at the Broward Behavioral Health Conference and on accessibility and inclusion at the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly. In each place, I'm reminded that I'm standing on the shoulders of a great cloud of witnesses and supported by a family of faith that loves me and the gifts I bring to it.

We are one body in Christ—and we do not stand alone.

As we look ahead to the next program and fiscal year, my primary objective and goal will be to use the Apostle Paul's words about the body of Christ as a guide – we are many members, and all members are essential. Zion needs all of its members and friends to find a place to plug in, serve, and have a voice in our present and future. Now that COVID-19 has faded from the spotlight, I will be looking to resume ways to bring the body of Christ together, including a major alumni homecoming over the next year. Additionally, I have recommended to the Congregation Council that we:

1. **Resume our town hall meetings** and bring you, the congregation, up to speed on the financial stability of the congregation. What figure would make us financially self-sufficient? And then, how will we increase our giving strategically to meet that goal? How can we together bring new faces into our congregation and family of faith? (JMI)
2. **Convene a preschool advisory action group**, composed of preschool parents, church members, and community members – with the goals of increasing the visibility of the preschool and improving the relationship and partnership between the preschool and the church. (JMI)
3. **Build a “growing young” action group**, composed of church members and community members (especially those aged 18-39) and the ministry staff to plan strategically how to reach and retain new and younger members, with and without families. We will need to look at programming, faith formation, and worship practices. (JMI)
4. **Create and convene an accessibility advocacy action group**. As part of my work on accessibility and inclusion, it is important that we (Zion) lead by example and implement practices and strategies to make our mindsets and spaces more accessible and inclusive.
5. **Discern** (in partnership with Living Faith Lutheran, Pembroke Pines) **our future status as a Reconciling in Christ congregation**. This involves an intentional welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community and a commitment to anti-racism—both of which we are already doing, but without this important national designation. More about this to come.

All of these opportunities necessitate having more people at the table, involved in the conversation, planning, and execution of ministry strategies designed to help us grow, both in number and in impact, in vitality and sustainability. Which area interests you? How will you serve over the next year at Zion as a tangible expression that **we are one body in Christ—and we do not stand alone.**

As always, thank you to the leadership of this congregation and community, especially our Congregation Council, for their support and guidance. Thank you to my mother, our family, and our “friends who are family” for being there for those special moments over the last year. And, thank you to all of you for continuing to affirm, appreciate, and validate my ministry here at Zion.

Preschool Director's Report

Mrs. Erica Blankenship



Dear Members and Friends of Zion Church,

Let me begin by saying how good and wonderful it is to be a partner in ministry with you. We at Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church are very proud to be an integral piece of the mission of this congregation and to work with such a gifted and talented leadership team. I am personally grateful for the collegiality and friendship I share with Cantor Kurt Schmidt and the members of the Congregation Council – Robin Larson, Gail Schmidt, and Scott McElroy. They are always supportive and always showing up for the needs of our preschool – staff, students, and facility.

The 2021-2022 school year has been one of rebuilding, refocusing, and stewarding God's gifts. We were very fortunate to emerge from the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic largely unscathed. Although we closed briefly several times, there are at least 60 preschools in Broward County that did not survive the pandemic. Our survival is due not only to God's providence, but to the dedication of our teaching staff and the loyalty of our parents and families. As of my writing this report, our current enrollment is 95 students and we employ 17 full-time staff members. We said farewell to Ms. Rosa Carranza, a longtime partner of mine in preschool administration, and welcomed Ms. Desiree Fromme to serve as a part-time office assistant for Ms. Janel Rafael and myself, in addition to her classroom responsibilities. We expect that, over the next school year, we will not only meet but exceed our pre-pandemic student enrollment. Part of that success will depend on hiring and retaining quality preschool teachers and aides – a particular challenge in today's interesting job market.

One of the unanticipated blessings of the pandemic and its consequences has been a series of grants received by the preschool, in addition to the PPP loan Zion received in 2020-2021. To date, Evergreen Academy of Zion has received:

\$2,500	Booster Grant from the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County
\$18,000	CARES Grant (Phase III)
\$3,250	CARES Grant (Phase IV)
\$19,500	CARES Grant (Phase V)
\$18,000	Summer Booster Grant from the ELC of Broward County
\$48,594	CARES Grant (Phase VI)
\$75,028	American Rescue Plan Act Grant

While a great deal of this funding is intended to offset lost business income and provide payroll for our teachers and administrators, some of the funding has allowed and will afford us the opportunity to make some much-needed improvements to our facility and infrastructure.

Completed Facility Updates/Upgrades

- Update classroom lighting (in all classrooms) with LED lighting. The existing fixtures have been re-wired to hold LED bulbs, which are much more efficient and amiable than fluorescent lighting.
- Install a new AC in the infant classroom.
- Purchase 80 new nap mats.
- Purchase and install new front door security system for monitoring and remotely unlocking the preschool entrance door.
- Purchase and have new playground mulch installed.
- Purchase five new tricycles for outdoor play.

- Renovate (entirely) the two front bathrooms at the preschool entrance. The majority of the fixtures and labor were donated by the Domalewski family. We are covering the cost of new bathroom doors and updating the entry hallway.
- Paint the sidewalks (preschool interior). We are planning to paint the exterior sidewalks (including the front of the church) in the next year.

Upcoming Facility Updates/Upgrades

- Purchase a new property security system, including several new cameras.
- Complete the replacement of hurricane-safe windows in the five remaining classrooms.
- Replace two deteriorated playground canopies and the canopy over the baby swings on the south side of the preschool (adjacent to the church).

On behalf of the teachers, students, and families of Evergreen Academy of Zion, let me say how thankful and blessed we feel for the support of the congregation at Zion and especially its Congregation Council. We would not have a preschool ministry without your continued encouragement and affirmation. On a personal note, it is a true blessing to fulfill my life's work with the people of Zion and to the glory of God.



Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church
Class of 2022

2021-2022 In Review

On August 1st, we began a congregation-wide reading of the Book of Acts, one chapter a day.



We began our First Friday: Food & Fellowship monthly outings with an evening at Tijuana Taxi, committing to locally-owned and operated restaurants.



In response to another devastating earthquake in Haiti, Zion responded with "Help for Haiti," a partnership with Food for the Poor. We donated \$250 and a carload of supplies.



On 9/11, in partnership with Deerfield Beach Community Cares, we hosted the Alexis J. Marion Heath & Wellness Fair. Our day began with a 9/11 commemoration, attended by the mayor and commissioners. Over 35 providers were present to showcase their services for over 300 local residents.



July August

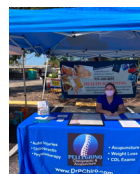
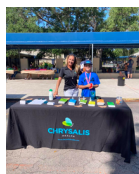
September

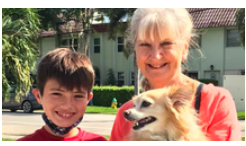
Our inaugural YEP cohort met for bowling and ice cream as we said farewell to those going away to college and entering the workforce.



Thanks to a new partnership with Oasis, we rebooted our technology classes for seniors which, in turn, connected us with Century Village.

The week after Labor Day, we launched an 8-week Bible study on the Book of Acts: "Catching Up with the Spirit." This was one of the first in-person Bible studies since COVID.

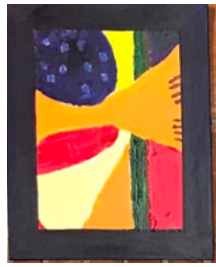




As part of our commitment to be present at city events, we attended the DFB Fall Festival at Pioneer Park.



In November, we hosted the first of two Art4Healing workshops, led by local teacher Gabriela Gamperl. We contemplated the Bible readings for Advent, and our art pieces graced the narthex through the New Year.



On October 2nd, we hosted our annual Blessing of the Animals and welcomed over 30 of God's creatures, including the K-9 Unit from BSO.



We opened our campus to host the resource fair for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, hosted by Women in Distress.



October

November

On October 3rd, we welcomed new members, confirmed 5 of our young people, and said farewell to Pastor David Potter.

In partnership with Deerfield Beach Community Cares, BSO, and the Change Me Foundation, we donated \$795 toward Thanksgiving meals for the DFB community.

New Members

- Pat Belanger
- Steve Hody
- Rev. Annemarie Noto
- Nick Rato
- Melissa Tahal-Hody
- Norman Tahal
- Shelly Tahal

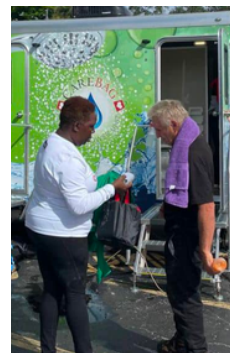


Confirmands

- Shayne Clancy
- Liam Donoghue
- Emily Geaquinto
- Jake Jones
- Leo Tambolini



On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, BSO hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless living in DFB in Zion's gym. In addition to food and resources, a mobile barber and shower were present.





One of the highlights of the holiday season is the annual Christmas Program of our preschool, Evergreen Academy.



As 2022 began, we adopted six discipleship emphases to shape our ministry year:

- Pray Daily
- Worship Weekly
- Study God's Word
- Build Relationships
- Serve Joyfully
- Give Selflessly



Following the Christmas hustle, we gathered together to pack the 200 food bags for HOPE South Florida that were picked up by Pastor Pery Canan and taken directly to a shared meal.

We commemorated Advent by a return to Prayer at the End of the Day, preceded by a Bible study hosted by Cantor Kurt Schmidt and Pastor Jonathan Gantt of Living Faith Lutheran in Pembroke Pines for members and friends of both congregations.



During Advent, Pastor David Dangerfield joined us as our stated supply pastor and served with us through April 2022.



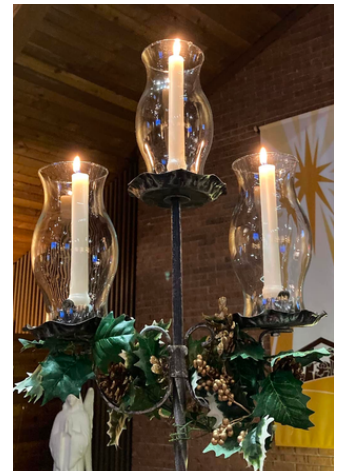
December

January

HOPE South Florida

Our 3rd Annual Reverse Advent Calendar benefited the shared meal ministry at HOPE South Florida. We were able to collect items to pack 200 bags of non-perishable food for the homeless in Broward County.

Our sanctuary is most beautiful during the Christmas season. We also enjoyed our first Casual Christmas where worshippers gathered under the portico to sip hot chocolate, sing Christmas carols, and participate in (what one person said) "the best worship service Zion has ever had."



Thanks to all those who decorated Alleluia banners, including our Evergreen Academy Pre-K students. These banners were put away for Lent and displayed with joy on Easter Sunday!



Thanks to the work of Charles Johnson, Patrick Byndloss and Darius Philpart (two Zion alumni and now Somerset faculty), and a group of Somerset students, our iconic sanctuary cross was returned to its place of prominence in time for Easter Sunday.



Our Lenten observance was punctuated by a Sunday sermon series on the Serenity Prayer and a Wednesday Bible Study, "Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You."



Zion sponsored the Kindness Rocks activity at Kiwanis' annual Family Fun Day at Sullivan Park.

Our Faith & Film Series launched on Good Friday and is filled with thoughtful looks at popular movies.



February March April May



For the first time since the pandemic, we were able to participate in Pioneer Days on the beach. BSO estimated that more than 10,000 people passed by our tent that weekend.

Our second Art4Healing workshop focused on the Bible readings for Easter.



Our Holy Week and Easter celebrations were as memorable as ever, thanks to everyone who made them possible!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ZION!

On May 4, we celebrated the 64th anniversary of the founding of our congregation.



At the end of April, we said farewell to Pastor David and Kathy Dangerfield and welcomed Pastor Cathy Lauterhahn, who continues as our stated supply pastor.



Memorial Garden

We thank the members of the Memorial Garden Committee for their faithful service through the pandemic and into 2022: Chris Ferrara (secretary), Robin Larson (treasurer), Debbie Anderson, and Scott McElroy. This committee continues to meet quarterly and address the needs of those interred in our Memorial Garden (perpetual care) and those interested in purchasing niches for themselves or family members.

Long time Memorial Garden committee members Harry Ambrose and Bill Haar passed away in 2021 and were interred in the Memorial Garden.

1. Interment for **Harry Ambrose** occurred on June 13, 2021 in a brief service conducted by Pastor Robert Schaefer of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach.
2. **Bill Haar** passed away on June 9, 2021 and was interred in the garden at his memorial service.
3. **Pamela Jo Robert**, Penny Frantello's sister, was interred on August 12, 2021.
4. **Laura Johnson**, a great niece of Mildred Hibell, passed away on November 12, 2021. Her interment occurred in December 2021.
5. **Doris Jackson** passed away in January 2022 and is awaiting interment.

Repair & Maintenance

Artificial plants for the pots around the cross were acquired to be rotated for each of the seasons (Spring, Fall and Christmas). Also, new spare niche covers and urns have been purchased for inventory purposes.

Total Niches: 281

of niches purchased to date: 174

remaining: 107

One niche was sold in the past year for the interment of Pamela Jo Robert.

Donations

A donation to the Memorial Garden Endowment Fund was received. Funds from Columbarium (\$5000 balance + \$10,000 donation) were used to purchase a new 1-year CD at Bank United in the amount of \$15,000. A one-year certificate was purchased with a 1.2% interest rate.

Account Balances (as of February 1, 2022)

Columbarium Account: \$5274.94

Endowment Account: \$52,537.94

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Ferrara, Secretary

2021-2022 Approved Budget

2021-2022 Approved

					Actual thru	
	Church	Preschool	Overhead	Total	June 10	
INCOME	Brick Project - Memorial Brick	250.00			250.00	0.00
	Facility Usage Fees/Other	38,680.00		420,000.00	458,680.00	638,375.00
	Offerings	75,000.00			75,000.00	47,844.15
	Tuition/Registration/Fees/Other		646,600.00		646,600.00	678,614.29
	Somerset (Insurance) Reimbursement			100,174.00	100,174.00	0.00
		113,930.00	646,600.00	520,174.00	1,280,704.00	1,364,833.44
	Total: \$1,280,704.00					
	Church	Preschool	Overhead	Total		
EXPENSES	Bank Service Charge			4,000.00		270.00
	Capital Projects (not insurance-related)			0.00		6,297.00
	Insurance			231,124.00		261,272.63
	Maintenance & Repair			83,573.00		86,790.60
	Ministry	15,000.00			15,000.00	15,646.48
	Mortgage			121,656.00		121,656.00
	Rental/Lease - Office Equipment			2,666.66		2,963.58
	Postage			0.00		457.22
	Professional & Legal Services			31,000.00		35,215.14
	Salaries (including substitutes) & Payroll expenses	131,850.00	570,000.00		701,850.00	580,149.36
	Supplies	4,000.00	17,500.00		21,500.00	19,168.50
	Taxes and Benefits	47,475.00	44,800.00		92,275.00	47,544.90
	Utilities	14,295.00	33,355.00		47,650.00	47,514.01
				1,352,294.66	1,224,945.42	
Total: \$1,352,294.66						



ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

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