



Annual Report

2019-2020



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Following Jesus, we invite, equip, and serve our neighbors.”

Table of Contents

Leadership Team Reports	Page(s)
Report of the President – David S. Clancy	1-2
Report of the Pastor – The Rev. David E. Potter	2-4
Report of the Cantor – Kurt R. Schmidt	5-7
Report of the Preschool – Erica Blankenship	7-8
Ministry Teams & Committees	
Fellowship Team	9
Memorial Garden Committee – Carole V. Watson	9
Outreach Team	9-10
Property Team	10
Social Ministry Team	10-11
Youth Empowerment Project – Kylie Frantello	11
Budget (Approved vs. Actual, 2019-2020)	12-13

Leadership

Congregation Council

Serves Until 2021
Matthew Donoghue
Robin Larson, Treasurer
Jane Randall, Vice President

Serves Until 2022
David Clancy, President
Scott McElroy

Pr. David Potter, *ex officio*
Kylie Frantello, Youth Liaison

*Debbie Burns (2022) served as Secretary until her resignation in February 2020.
Kim Geaquinto (2022) served until her resignation in May 2020.*

Administrative Team

The Rev. David E. Potter, Pastor
Kurt R. Schmidt, Cantor and Communications Specialist
Erica Blankenship, Director of Evergreen Academy
Rosa Carranza, Assistant Director of Evergreen Academy
Janel Rafael, Assistant Director of Evergreen Academy

Leadership Team Reports

Report of the President

David Clancy

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice... Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Philippians 4:4, 8

I find it hard to believe that another year has passed right before our eyes. When reflecting on this past year, I am most thankful for the individuals with whom I have had the honor to work in our service to God. You all are a true blessing!

I would like to thank Pastor David Potter, Cantor Kurt Schmidt, our Zion Evergreen staff, my friends on Church Council, and the members of our various committees who have contributed their time and talents to this selfless endeavor.

Rather than pinpoint individual contributions, I think it would be more appropriate to share my vision of the great work being done as evidence that the Lord is with us! I recognize that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is alive and well, working through each of us, to the glory of His Kingdom here at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

This year, as a congregation, we unanimously welcomed the Rev. David Potter to Zion as our Pastor, to lead and guide us into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Pastor Potter has challenged us to be better stewards of the resources with which God has graced us. He has inspired us to reach further into our community, to share the goodwill that exists within our congregation. And, with his expertise in healing, recovery, and mission, he has helped us look deeply into ourselves to discover the gifts we have to offer.

We also took the opportunity to evaluate the current needs of our church administration. We did not need to look far to find a lifelong Zion advocate, supporter, and champion in Cantor Kurt Schmidt. In addition to his musical talents and responsibilities, Kurt has done an incredible job of increasing the digital presence of our church, our mission, and our love of God to the world at large. I have no doubt that, as we continue to be challenged to grow as a church, Kurt will be there as a conduit, extending our reach far beyond the doors of our sanctuary.

It is more than noteworthy to mention that this year, thanks to the dedication from our Church Treasurer, Robin Larson, supported by several members of our congregation, our ability to make sound fiscal decisions is as clear as I have ever known it. We are on track to be able to audit our accounting, and document the policies and procedures that have been implemented, creating a legacy opportunity for the future of our church.

We are also about to celebrate our first year of renewed life in our mission to provide a Christian education and care for the youngest members of our community here at Zion. After years of struggling to utilize the gifts our Lord has given us in these buildings, we are witnessing God's vision made manifest into purpose and a place where people can thrive, as we reach further into our immediate community. I would like to recognize the commitment from Erica Blankenship, and the

entire staff of teachers and parents who believe in her mission. The preschool not only enrolled enough to students to generate three quarters of a million dollars in revenue, but they also conducted several events, engaging parents and families here on campus. Many of the improvements made to our classrooms and playground can be attributed to the goodwill being created everyday by this team of dedicated individuals. We as a congregation need to continue and increase our pledge to support this integral part of our ministry and mission.

Most recently, in the final quarter of our fiscal year, we as a congregation and organization have had an almost insurmountable obstacle placed in our path by God in the form of a global pandemic. It has caused us to experience change at a pace that would make even the most prepared a little uneasy. We, a group of people who commune together and proclaim the Word together, are now isolated. My prayers are with all of us as we learn to handle our new routines. I have heard though that God only gives us what we can handle and that He will always challenge us to grow; and through our faith, we will overcome. In my experience at Zion, I can assure you He does not spare us this opportunity to grow. As much as I personally have struggled with the forced isolation from my church and partially from God's message, I feel it is important to recognize the tremendous effort and deliberate movement to make God's Word available to God's people through the use of technology. In a time of need, thanks to Pastor Potter, Cantor Schmidt, Robin Larson, Gail Schmidt, and others, the Lutheran perspective has been able to reach farther into the world around us. The love we have for God and each other is now being shared through the internet all the time! We now have a presence on Facebook Live, that reaches far more souls than would ever be able to grace our beautiful Sanctuary. When adapting to the current circumstances was critical, we again were blessed by God to not only survive but to thrive. God is good!

Again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to God for the opportunity to be engaged by all of you. Serving my congregation, and the larger family of our church and preschool as Council President, is and has been one of the most rewarding endeavors I have ever experienced.

Please pray with me for our future together: Lord God, keep us in your favor and shine your light down upon us. Be gracious to us. Fill our minds with your peace, our hearts with your gratitude, and our souls with your love. Lord, continue to place challenges in our paths that inspire us to rise up, overcome, and delight in your glory. Amen!

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.



“When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.”

Philemon 4-6

INVITE – EQUIP – SERVE

At last year's annual congregation meeting, we accepted the revised changes to Zion's constitution, as provided by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We were notified in September that there were further changes that had come from the August 2019 Churchwide Assembly for us to implement, so we may be examining them again at this year's congregational meeting to align our congregation with the others in the ELCA.

We have spent our first year with our re-branded preschool **Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church** under the direction of Erica Blankenship. We have experienced refreshed facilities and remarkable growth...at least until COVID-19. Health and safety protocols have been handled with professionalism and we have been able to continue to provide preschool care for essential workers. Please see the Evergreen Academy report for more information.

Thanks to Council Treasurer Robin Larson for stepping forward to weed through Zion's finances and get them in proper order that we may be more efficient and effective stewards of the financial resources God has given us. We have a dramatically clearer picture of where we financially stand than we did one year ago. She has been a true blessing for us.

Our Youth Liaison to Council Kylie Frantello has been a great resource in launching **Y.E.P.** (Youth Empowerment Project) by, with, and for high school youth. Please see that report for more information.

After reviewing job descriptions and staffing needs, in coordination with our Executive Committee and Council, it was agreed to eliminate the positions of Church Secretary and Operations Manager. Robin Larson took on the financial portion of the Operations Manager role and a Property Team was formed to look at facilities and grounds of Zion. We created a new part-time position of **Communications Specialist**. Kurt Schmidt, our Cantor, has stepped into that role, creating (with the help of other Zion members) a beautiful, interactive website and weekly email updates, signage, and other communication, as well as recently facilitating online livestreaming of worship, online giving, and other ways to gather us together in this time of social distancing. His role does not absorb the Church Secretary position. The staff and people of Zion are expected to take on a more active, leadership role as we review our routines and consider how God is calling us to be a new creation, a new congregation in the present.

Resolution of our **phone system** problems was moving forward, only to be stalled out by COVID-19. I have sent correspondence requesting Zion be considered an "essential business" due to Evergreen Academy and hope to have the prep work done and installation of the new phone system soon at a substantial savings to what we have been paying.

Six and a half months into my call as your Interim Pastor (at the end of November), you presented me with the opportunity to accept a three-year term call from the Bishop to serve as Pastor of Zion. Since then I have been able to serve **with** Zion full-time. I use the word **with** because this is our ministry together.

"Preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, and conduct public worship"

- It has been my privilege to work with our Cantor Kurt Schmidt in coordinating worship and we are close to testing a new a worship service called Recover-Refresh-Renew. This has the potential to reach a broader range of worshippers.
- Speaking of a broader range, our livestreaming, online worship is reaching many who, for a variety of reasons, may not attend Zion physically. This includes our homebound and our seasonal members.
- We also have a Monday 959 spiritual break, with encouragement for people to take a spiritual break at 9:59 daily, whether morning or evening.
- Cantor Kurt Schmidt is also doing a Wednesday evening Prayer at the End of the Day service.

All of this is online and helps us live out the **INVITE** component of our mission.

Heidi Womack has proven to **be** the role of Sacristan for Zion. A sacristan prepares the communion elements for the celebration of Holy Communion, readies the sanctuary or other worship space, makes sure the paraments are the right ones for the Church season, assists the acolytes (including training and guidance), and cleans the holy materials after worship and even more! She does this week in, week out. Thanks, also, to Gail Schmidt who sets the altar and lights the candles for Saturday evening worship, and runs the PowerPoint for both Saturday and Sunday worship.

“Provide pastoral care”

Homebound visits and communion as well as hospital visits were occurring prior to the restrictions of COVID-19 and will resume as restrictions are relaxed. I continue to be available for spiritual care and guidance as well as short-time counseling. This is a part of the **SERVE** in our mission.

“Offer instruction”

- Sunday morning Bible study took us through the book of Genesis.
- Midweek Advent study gave us the time and space to explore the Scriptural and theological meaning behind the O antiphons of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”
- The midweek Lenten study began looking at Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline*, exploring prayer, fasting, and meditation.
- Preparing for Affirmation of Baptism, better known as Confirmation, is in the works.
- I will be adding online Bible study for our confirmands, our other members, and as a means of outreach.
- A 21st Century Lutheran Christian course will be offered, which can include those exploring membership with Zion as well as those actively participating.

This is included in the **EQUIP** component of our mission.

“Witness to the Kingdom of God in the community” (Outreach)

Much has been done with our focus on Communication. I was also glad to see us represented and visible at the Deerfield Beach Fall Festival and Pioneer Days. Our annual Blessing of the Animals brought members, neighbors, and even K-9 units from the Broward County Sherriff’s office. This, again, is part of **INVITE**.

I was so proud of our congregation’s response to Westboro Baptist Church’s scheduled protest of our area congregations, which included ours. They have a hate-filled rhetoric that we countered with the Gospel, proclaiming our ministries will go forward. The colorful doors proclaiming “God’s Doors Are Open to All,” the hymn sing in the outdoor portico in front of the church with the grand piano, and friends of members showing up for support were all special blessings of the day. We proclaimed to our neighbors, and to all who passed by, a positive message of faith, hope, and love in and through Christ!

Parish Record	
Funerals/Memorial Services	4
Baptisms	6
Weddings	0

My hope is in this coming year we may become even more effective in sharing our faith, as individuals and as the people of Zion. As Pastor Max Lucado said, **“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”** Let us each think about how we can live that out. May it be true for **all** the people of Zion. God bless you and others through you!



“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:8

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the Israelites came to believe that God dwelled with them in their tabernacle (*mishkan*) as they journeyed through the wilderness. When they settled in the Promised Land, they built a temple and the presence of God began to dwell in the “holy of holies.” The first temple was destroyed in 586 BC, and the Israelites were taken to Babylon in exile. They began to wonder where God could be since God’s traditional dwelling place ceased to exist.

As years passed, the understanding of the presence of God evolved, and today we believe that God “tabernacles” with us where we are. I find this to be incredibly comforting as I am writing this report from my favorite recliner in my home, and we are currently in the ninth week of “stay-at-home” due to physical distancing and COVID-19.

We have learned to “be the Church” in new and different ways and to cultivate community across virtual platforms and telephone lines. We would not be people of faith if we didn’t learn to adapt to our circumstances and respond to the needs of our community in meaningful ways. Inasmuch as this report is about “where we’ve been,” I hope and pray that it gives you a glimpse of “where we’re going” as our church community grows and adapts in this new year of ministry together.

Worship and Music

- Together, we have participated in 102 **weekend liturgies**. Pastor Potter held spoken liturgies on two Saturday evenings (October 19th and February 15th) when I was representing Zion at the Fall Festival and Pioneer Days with the City of Deerfield Beach.
- Before our time of stay-at-home, our **music ministries (Bells & Choir)** were preparing for Easter and had experienced the first year of relative stability in recent memory. We had at least 15 individuals (ages 10-75+) participate in one or both groups with weekly rehearsals beginning in September. Sadly, we wished Godspeed to Debbie Burns in April as she relocated to Tampa with Todd and Katie to be closer to her son Jeff and his wife and kids.
- We offered several **special weekday liturgies** including: Thanksgiving Eve (Eve), Advent Wednesdays (3), Christmas Eve (at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.), Ash Wednesday (at Noon and 7:00 p.m.), and Lent Wednesdays (2, before “stay-at-home”).
- I participated in four **memorial services** for saints of our community: Laurie Stuber, Winnie Holton, Travis Niedermiller, and Yvonne Tahal. May their memory be for a blessing.
- As part of our “Learn & Grow” series, I led a **six-week study on the Parables & Miracles of Jesus** in the Fall at both Noon and 6:00 p.m. We had approximately 15 people participate in this Bible study.
- I was asked to lead a **workshop on accessibility and inclusion** for those with disabilities for this year’s Synod Assembly. Even though the assembly was canceled, I am still completing the workshop and plan to offer it via Zoom and through the synod for additional learning and conversation.
- As part of our social media programming during COVID-19, I am leading **Prayer at the End of the Day** from my home on Wednesday nights. As with our other virtual offerings, this is seeing unprecedented success and exposure to people locally, nationally, and internationally (more on this below).

Communication

- Our primary means of communication include printed materials (prior to “stay-at-home”), the website, and our social media platforms.
 - Our **printed materials** continue to be refined. We have experimented with different bulletin formats in an effort to be more efficient with our resources of time and treasure. We continue to develop print-rich layouts for all of our materials, including posters, flyers, and even this Annual Report.
 - Our **website** continues to grow and expand and now includes our worship bulletins and videos, prayer lists and prayer requests, archives of our e-mail newsletters, and member resources (i.e. council meeting minutes, the Church’s constitution, etc.).
 - Our **social media platforms** have given us the broadest and widest reach in our ministry activities. The statistics below are both for your information and for archival purposes:



Facebook is the primary social media platform we use. We have 301 total likes and 329 total followers. We use Facebook Live as our primary source for broadcasting.



Instagram is our second most-used platform and integrates with Facebook for advertising and posts. We have 115 followers.



YouTube is a new social media platform for us. We only have 11 subscribers, but one doesn’t need an account to view our videos here. Once posted on Facebook, our videos post here and to the website.



Twitter is our under-utilized social media platform. It is more suited for tweets and could be a vehicle for posts and musings by the pastor.

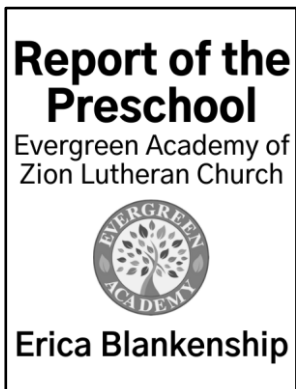
- Recognizing that we are no longer “Zion Lutheran Church & School” and that Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church has its own brand identity, we **re-branded** using our church “under the cross” logo, had it cleaned up by a graphic artist (who is also a Zion school alumna) and are using it again across all communication channels as our primary logo.
- We started using **Constant Contact** in August for our e-mail communication. This internet-based software allows us to send targeted communication to specific groups and monitor use. We send to a church audience of approximately 70 e-mail addresses and to an Evergreen audience of approximately 80 e-mail addresses. Of the weekly church e-mails, we have an “open” rate of 65-75%.
- Until its end in December 2019, we relied on a partnership with the Observer as our primary source of **print advertising**, also using the events calendar on Sun-Sentinel.com for events of community interest. Pastor Potter, the Finance Committee, and I are exploring the cost-effectiveness of print advertising and have every intent to establish a responsible ad budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- As part of our roll-out of **online giving**, we **upgraded our church software** to Realm (owned by ACS). Realm is internet-based and has an entire suite of communication and ministry possibilities that we will continue to explore in the coming year.
- Because of physical distancing and our increase in virtual ministry opportunities, we purchased a **Zoom** license in April through which we can hold virtual meetings, Bible studies, and other fellowship opportunities. We are already using it, having adapted our Youth Empowerment Project to this context.
- **Ministry during COVID-19** has necessitated new opportunities that rely on social media and our website, such as: Prayer at 9:59, Wednesday Evening Prayer, Faith-Filled Fridays, and our Sunday Morning Worship, all broadcast over Facebook and Facebook Live. The potential for sharing the gospel is easily apparent and the proof is in the numbers. Below, you will find the average statistics for our virtual worship attendance:

Virtual Worship Attendance Averages Facebook "People Reached" (not including Website or YouTube)	
Sundays in Lent	210
Holy Week Services	362
Sundays in Easter	274
Wednesdays – Compline	297

If you've read this far, you deserve a gold star! Since assuming responsibilities for communication in August (and becoming full-time again), we have made many positive strides in ministry together. I am so grateful for God's timing, the vision of Pastor Potter and the Council, and their willingness to partner with me in this new way. My health has improved tremendously, and the freedom in this revised "call to serve" at Zion has been a blessing in so many ways.

So much of what we do is not the work of one or two people and our success certainly does not depend solely on Pastor Potter or myself. We are all the Church together; and those who have participated with me in social ministry and outreach projects (as you will read in other reports) have my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Take heart, dear Church! God is with us wherever we are, and God will continue to bless us as we follow Jesus by inviting, equipping, and serving our neighbors and each other. We press on together—until the whole world hears!



On June 1, 2019, we launched the ministry of Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church. Evergreen Academy represents the newest chapter in Zion's 50+ year history of Christian education. We have been very proud to recommit ourselves to a robust ministry dedicated to God's youngest and most precious children.

Prior to the launch of Evergreen Academy, Janel Rafael served as Zion's preschool director for 57 children (and their families) and ten staff members. As part of the transition to Evergreen Academy, Janel asked to step down as Director. On June 1st, I assumed the position of Director of Evergreen Academy, and asked Rosa Carranza and Janel Rafael to serve as Assistant

Directors. The same day, the enrollment grew by 85 children (and their families) and fourteen additional teachers joined the staff.

Over the next nine months, we were able to maintain these levels of enrollment and staffing. We implemented a faith-based, creative learning curriculum with emphasis on literacy, science, hands-on activities, and creative expression (dance and music). All of the classrooms were updated (removing old paneling, resurfacing floors, installing new baseboards, and painting). We celebrated holidays with our first annual Trunk or Treat at Halloween and our Christmas Program, in addition to events for and with individual grade levels. In March, we were prepared to open a third infant room, having furnished the space and hired additional staff members.

COVID-19 drastically interrupted our positive momentum. We remained operational; however, some families withdrew due to layoffs, working from home, and/or needing to be home to care for older children. The enrollment dropped to 25 children attending. At the time of writing this, 43 children are attending, and 20 more are continuing to pay part or all of their tuition in order to retain their spot. Our teachers graciously adapted to these changes by agreeing to reduce their hours or take a

temporary leave of absence. In April, we received funding from the Paycheck Protection Plan in order to fully compensate our working teachers over the following eight weeks. We are proud that we were able to remain open to serve families of first responders, healthcare workers, and other essential workers. We anticipate that, as the local and national climate improve, our families will continue to return and operations will approach our “new normal.” [Please see the chart below for a snapshot of our income from tuition vs. expenses.]

Month	INCOME	EXPENSES	
	Tuition (actual)	Payroll (actual)	Profit for Other Expenses (Utilities, Supplies, Repair & Maintenance, etc.)
July 2019	\$71,406.30	\$51,847.06	\$19,559.24
August 2019	\$72,046.09	\$50,830.63	\$21,215.46
September 2019	\$78,062.49	\$49,290.41	\$28,772.08
October 2019	\$71,114.53	\$74,891.40*	(\$3,776.87)
November 2019	\$68,090.29	\$51,343.35	\$16,746.94
December 2019	\$69,656.96	\$53,378.81	\$16,278.15
January 2020	\$85,411.59	\$51,008.80	\$34,402.79
February 2020	\$68,485.32	\$53,997.55	\$14,487.77
March 2020	\$68,036.46	\$55,297.85	\$12,738.61
April 2020	\$32,942.28	\$41,310.30*	(\$8,368.02)
TOTAL	\$685,252.31	\$533,196.16	\$152,056.15

* Three paychecks distributed this month.

Our prayer (and the prayer we ask of the community) is that we continue to live into our identity of Evergreen Academy of Zion Lutheran Church – always growing, always innovating, and always relying on God’s providence and guidance for our success and God’s glory.

Ministry Teams & Committees

Fellowship Team

Our Fellowship Team focuses on opportunities for hospitality (usually including food), invitation, and welcome in our community. Coffee fellowship on Sunday mornings continues to be an important social extension of the worshipping community. We held Sundae Sunday on September 22, 2019 and February 23, 2020 in Katie Luther Chapel and also hosted Coffee Fellowship in Katie Luther Chapel on December 1, 2019 for "Advent Craft & Card Sunday."

Thanks to Gail Schmidt, Drew Shimkus, Robin Larson, and Michele Clancy for preparing us for these events. Over the next year (and in the absence of a church secretary), we will be looking for new voices and ideas for coordinating and extending fellowship to our community.

Memorial Garden Committee

Members

Carole V. Watson
Chair
Christine Ferrara
Secretary
Robin Larson
Treasurer
Scott McElroy
Council Liaison
Debbie Anderson
Beverly Swanson
Richard Zent
Mary Smith
Member Emerita

The Memorial Garden Committee is charged with the supervision of the fenced area known as the Memorial Garden to ensure that it is appropriately maintained to preserve its beauty and reverent setting, as well as to be certain that these facilities are available to the members of this congregation for housing the cremated remains of their loved ones. The committee meets monthly.

A professional landscaping firm provides the care for the Memorial Garden twice per month and also responds to requests for special treatments such as mulch replacement, weed control, and fertilization.

The Memorial Garden oversees the Brick Project. The cost of the brick is \$50.00, which includes the \$20.00 fee for the inscription. To purchase a brick to memorialize a loved one or honor a life event please contact a member of the committee.

Endowment Account Balance (as of May 31, 2020): \$36,407.96
(Four staggered CD accounts make up this Endowment Account.)
Columbarium Account Balance (as of May 31, 2020): \$10,120.70

Outreach Team

Our Outreach Team is charged with engaging the community with the ongoing and future ministries of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and Evergreen Academy. Those who participate are the public ambassadors of our mission: "Following Jesus, we invite, equip, and serve our neighbors." In the past year, we have participated in the following community-related events:

- Blessing of the Backpacks and EA Teacher Installation (August 11, 2019)
- Animal Blessing (October 5, 2019)
- Deerfield Beach Fall Festival (October 19, 2019)
- Protest by Westboro Baptist Church (February 2, 2020)
- Deerfield Beach Pioneer Days (February 14-16, 2020)
- Broward-Bahamas Conference Chili Cook-Off (February 15, 2020)

Thank you to all who volunteered and contributed their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that these events were successful. Our outreach events this past year have allowed us to build on relationships with the Broward Sheriff's Office (who featured our Animal Blessing on their social media), the City of Deerfield Beach, and our District Commissioner Michael Hudak (who joined us for the WBC Protest). We recognize that, while the public perception of Zion can be improved, there are many in our community with positive memories and a positive perception of Zion and its ministries. We had hoped to sponsor an annual Homecoming celebration in April, and had garnered quite a bit of interest from school alumni, families, and community members; however, because of COVID-19, we chose to postpone the event indefinitely. We were blessed by the collective generosity of the congregation to use budget funding to purchase banners and other necessary supplies; nevertheless, special thanks goes to David King for purchasing our 10x10 tent, and Drew Shimkus and Bruce Elkins for crafting, painting, and sealing our "doors project" that proclaims boldly: "God's doors are open to all!"

Property Team

Members

Dave Clancy
 Matt Donoghue
 Rich Donoghue
 David King
 Scott McElroy
 Mary Thompson
 Heidi Womack

The Property Team is responsible for the faithful stewardship of our physical property, including repair and maintenance, renovation, and beautification. The team was formed in response to the elimination of the position of Operations Manager. The focus of our meetings was to identify and prioritize property issues, working in consultation with the Finance Committee to determine available funding.

Before the coronavirus pandemic began, we were able to lead an effort to begin beautifying the campus by mulching and planting flowers in front of the sanctuary building. Thanks to those who helped with that effort: Bruce Elkins, Drew Shimkus, David King, Rich and Janet Donoghue, Matt Donoghue, Mary Thompson, Debbie Burns, and Robin Larson.

As COVID-19 becomes more manageable, further work is beginning with bids being obtained. We welcome any interested persons to join our team to help Zion be good stewards of what previous generations have provided.

Social Ministry Team

Our Social Ministry team embodies the "serve our neighbors" component of our mission statement. We are blessed by community partnerships with organizations like HOPE South Florida and Gateway Community Outreach, as well as supporting the important ministries of the Florida-Bahamas Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In the past year, we were able to serve our neighbors with time, talent, and treasure in the following ways:

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** (August) – 20+ gently used backpacks going to ChildNet (children entering foster care, who often come with few belongings in trashbags)
- In September, we sent \$860.60 through the **Florida-Bahamas Synod Disaster Relief Fund** to our brothers and sisters at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, following the devastation of Hurricane Dorian.
- 100 Blessing Bags for **"God's Work, Our Hands" Day** (September 8th) delivered to homeless individuals through HOPE South Florida (and an article in the Observer Newspaper)
- In the Fall, our **ELCA Good Gifts Campaign** raised funds that allowed us to purchase 1 goat and a flock of chicks, 2 more goats, 1 pig and manure, 1 rooster, 1 mosquito net, and 1 month of nutrition for a child. These items are given to those in the most need both domestically and internationally.

- **Advent Craft & Card Sunday**(December 1st) – 174 cards sent through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to families in detention centers
- **Angel Tree** – 30 local children blessed with gifts through Gateway Community Outreach
- **Reverse Advent Calendar** – 20 boxes of food picked up by HOPE South Florida and distributed to 10 families emerging from homelessness
- In March, we sent \$130 in **disaster relief funding** to benefit St. John’s Lutheran Church in Nashville following a tornado that devastated their building and property.
- Our **Easter Appeal for HOPE South Florida** raised \$900 for their shared meal program (which was doubled, thanks to a matching challenge from a donor at HSF).

Generosity is a team sport, and these projects would not be successful if people in the Zion community did not have hearts for giving. Special thanks goes to Robin Larson and Gail Schmidt for their efforts behind-the-scenes.

Youth Empowerment Project

Report Submitted by Kylie Frantello

The Youth Empowerment Project began as a conversation between Kylie Frantello and Pastor Potter about the possibility of a youth group that wasn’t so intensively religious, but more inclusive and socially-driven. The emphasis would not be on what youth *should* be doing or learning or believing; instead, this gathering would emphasize what young people wanted, and what they could learn in order to be more grounded, well-rounded, and successful in life.

The group’s first meeting involved five high schoolers and Cantor Kurt Schmidt. In addition to pizza and social time, the participants discussed the desire to be involved in service projects, the stress over SAT & ACT testing in preparation for college, and the need to learn “life skills” that their teachers weren’t covering in the classroom. Over the next few meetings, this core group decided on a list of topics to cover and solicited expertise from the congregation and community. Before COVID-19, we had built a schedule of presenters including the branch manager from our local TD Bank, one of our representatives from Thrivent (Kristi Clark), and Zion’s own Nick Watson (to cover car maintenance). Pastor Potter was responsible for making connections with faith, the Bible, and our spirituality during each meeting.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, we postponed our schedule of presenters and have begun weekly meetings on Zoom on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. We check in with each other, usually have some kind of virtual activity (like a scavenger hunt) and Pastor Potter and Cantor Schmidt continue to help us relate to God’s Word in our lives. We have had as many as nine participants (not including the adults) from Zion, St. Stephen’s, and those from area high schools but not affiliated with either church. When the restrictions are lifted, we will resume meeting in person, reschedule our presenters, and plan even more social activities. Special thanks to those from the Zion community who have donated toward this growing and important ministry.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

		2019-2020 Approved				2019 - 2020 Actual (does not include all data through June)			
	WD & SAC (Church Administration)	Preschool	Total	Church	Preschool	Overhead	Total		
	Brick Project - Memorial Brick	500.00	500.00	250.00			250.00		1,250.00
	Camp Fees	0.00	2,500.00		11,512.00		11,512.00		11,512.00
	Lease Payment for Property	420,000.00	420,000.00			420,000.00	420,000.00		420,000.00
	Offerings	70,000.00	70,500.00	63,468.36	962.00		64,430.36		64,430.36
	Other Income	27,000.00	30,000.00	549.95	4,037.99	4,763.81	9,351.75		9,351.75
	Registration Fees	0.00	19,200.00		15,425.75		15,425.75		15,425.75
	Tuition Fees	0.00	1,144,000.00		723,112.25		723,112.25		723,112.25
	Somerset Reimbursement	31,777.47	105,924.89			83,714.59	83,714.59		83,714.59
	Facility Fee	4,500.00	4,500.00	2,680.00			2,680.00		2,680.00
	Sub-Total	553,777.47	1,797,124.89	68,198.31	755,049.99	508,478.40	1,331,726.70		1,331,726.70
			Total: \$1,797,124.89				Total: \$1,331,726.70		

INCOME

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

	Church	Preschool	Total		Church	Preschool	Total	Overhead	Total
Bank Service Charge	2,028.86	4,734.03	6,762.89	Bank Service Charge				3,511.03	3,511.03
				Credit Card Fees				3,022.73	3,022.73
Discounts	0.00	93,600.00	93,600.00	Discounts			70,412.16		70,412.16
Roof Replacement	16,000.00	48,000.00	64,000.00	Roof Replacement (Somerset)				32,666.00	32,666.00
Insurance	45,396.38	105,924.89	151,321.27	Insurance				139,525.41	139,525.41
Maintenance and Repair	62,170.46	62,170.46	124,340.92	Maintenance & Repair					
Ministry	30,044.48	0.00	30,044.48	Ministry	11,822.64		33,822.02	17,070.00	62,714.66
Mortgage Payment	121,656.00	0.00	121,656.00	Mortgage Payment	17,528.97		50.89		17,579.86
				Rental/Lease - Office Equipment				91,242.00	91,242.00
				Postage	4,671.44		10,899.88	4,993.62	20,564.94
				Professional Services	28.00			1,248.17	1,276.17
				Payroll Services				4,842.15	4,842.15
Salaries	152,400.00	661,596.00	813,996.00	Salaries (including interim Pastor & subs)	6,330.39		16,705.10		23,035.49
Supplies	23,008.81	53,694.21	76,703.02	Supplies	111,489.48		560,479.02	6,362.51	678,331.01
Workers Comp	13,706.16	31,981.04	45,687.20	Workers Comp (included in Payroll Services)	4,449.08		24,272.86	897.95	29,619.89
Taxes and Benefits	67,802.60	38,774.66	106,577.26	Taxes and Benefits	24,347.26		46,667.45	486.75	71,501.46
Utilities	24,063.78	56,148.83	80,212.61	Utilities	18,120.21		31,486.01	435.58	50,041.80
Sub-Total	558,277.53	1,156,624.12	1,714,901.65						1,299,886.76
	Total: \$1,714,901.65				Total: \$1,299,886.76				

EXPENSES

