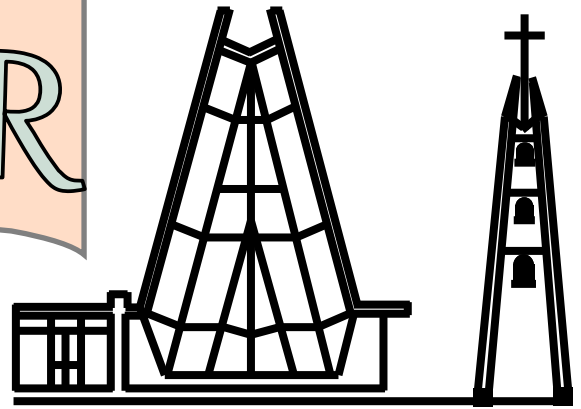


# MESSENGER

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



From the Pastor

## *Looking inside Lent*

Lent is a time in the church year when we can slow down and look inside for those parts of ourselves we need God's help to heal. People most frequently talk about uncovering sins and habits of thought and deed that lead us to sin. We can also use this time to increase our awareness of our emotional states and really feel the joy, pain, and sadness or fear that is present. So much of contemporary culture is designed to help us avoid feeling—we dull our physical pain and distract ourselves from our emotions. We need to really know ourselves and understand the sources of pain and unhealthiness in our lives if we are going to ask the Lord to come in and wash us clean again.

The Lord wants us to be healthy and whole. When we are whole and living in harmony, we can build that world full of love and compassion that Christ asks us to inhabit. Take a risk this Lenten season and bare your soul to the Lord and to yourself, trusting that God will never leave you or forsake you and trusting that *you are worth knowing*. Increased self-knowledge and awareness of our weaknesses prepares us to better love our neighbor.

Praying for a reflective season in Christ, *Pastor Melissa*

## **Special Opportunity during Lent: Individual Confession**

Each Sunday Lutherans and other Christians practice corporate or group confession. We also have the tradition of Individual Confession, but it has been forgotten in many communities. This Lenten season there will be several opportunities to practice Individual Confession at Zion. The Pastor will be available from 12:30—1:30 PM on Saturday, March 4 and 18. The Pastor may be able to accommodate some folks on Sundays or during the week as well; simply ask.

*Missing something? Consider volunteering as an individual or group to design and produce the newsletter for Zion.*

Consider a trip to New York for a lecture on the theme “**Re-Forming the Church of the Future: Bonhoeffer, Luther, Public Ethics.**” April 7 & 8 at Union Theological Seminary (3041 Broadway, New York, NY 10027). See <https://utsnyc.edu/event/bonhoeffer-lectures-in-public-ethics/> for details.

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If you have not done so already, please picked up your **offering envelopes for 2017**. If you would like someone to pick them up for you, please ask. If you prefer to have the envelopes mailed to you, please leave a message on the church’s answering machine (302-658-5288) or email (Zionluther@comcast.net)

## **In case you missed it: Leadership Training Opportunities**

Kairos and Associates hosted a webinar titled, “**Leadership During Times of Change,**” on Thursday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m. or 8 p.m. EST. This webinar addressed some key insights about change leadership gleaned both from research and experience in order to better lead and navigate healthy change. It is a follow-up to an earlier webinar presented by the Rev. Dr. David Lose, which you can find at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/934142159458203393>. You can register online for the Morning <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/436881429461020417> or evening <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3889084057887011073> session. Even though the URL address has “register” in it, you’ll be able to view the recordings..

**CALLED TO LEAD: Inspiring and Equipping Congregational Councils**, sponsored by the Delmarva Conference and led by Bishop Bill Gohl and Synod Vice President John Auger. February 25th from 9 am to 2 pm at Reformation Lutheran Church, Milford, DE. At least three Council members from Zion are planning to attend.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## ELCA presiding bishop responds to attacks on Jewish community

2/22/2017 5:35:00 PM

February 22, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

These famous words attributed to the German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller have been on my lips in recent days: *"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. ... Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."*

In the face of anti-Semitism, we are called to speak out – as an expression of our love of neighbor and as our faithful response to the love of God in Jesus. In doing so, we become ambassadors of hope in the face of despair, imitators of Christ.

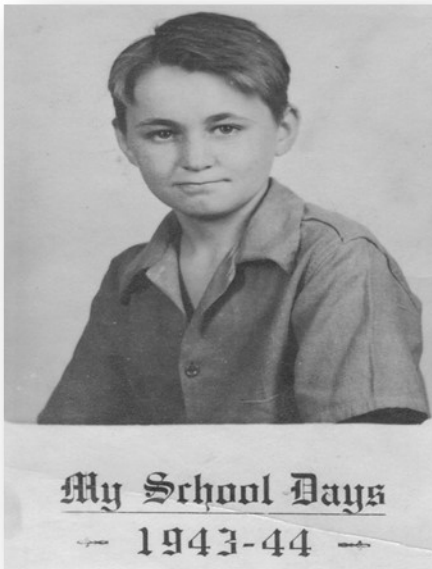
Our Jewish neighbors are once again living under threats, fearful for their safety and security. Over the weekend, a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis was desecrated, and on Monday, another wave of bomb threats was made to Jewish community centers across the country. This was at least the fourth round this year alone. As Christians, we affirm that Jews remain "beloved of God" and that an attack on them is an attack on those whom our God – the one God – has called "my people."

In many places, with leadership from across this church, we are reaching out and showing up with our Jewish neighbors, often with ecumenical and inter-religious partners. We can and should continue and expand these important ministries of presence.

There is also the critical long-term work. As a church, in our 1994 Declaration to the Jewish Community, we have pledged "to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us." This will not happen quickly. It will take concerted efforts to correct "the complicity of our own tradition within this history of hatred" and to seek deeper mutual understanding and cooperation between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community. We have many excellent resources to aid us in these complicated but necessary tasks: [ELCA.org/en/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Jewish-Relations](http://ELCA.org/en/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Jewish-Relations).

So, let us continue to speak out, to reach out, to show up, and to root out this deadly bigotry of anti-Semitism. For the courage to do God's will, and for the peace of our Jewish neighbors, we pray.

In peace, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton



## Did You Know?

I was born the seventh of nine children in a small town in Pennsylvania. Among my ancestors are my four great grandfathers who served with the Pennsylvania Militia during the revolutionary war of the United States. Also serving was my great grandfather who was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Rifles during the Civil War of America. He was wounded at the second battle of Bull Run.

Being born a cradle Lutheran I started Sunday school before attending public school and continued attending throughout my time at school. While attending Sunday school and public school I was taught to say “please and thank you” and to be polite to my elders. During my years, at Mauch Chunk Jr-Sr High School, I served as an usher at the local Lutheran church. After graduating from high school I enlisted in the United States Air Force where I served faithfully for six years and was awarded with a “Good Conduct Medal”. After my service I married and my wife and I had two children and we moved to Delaware. I began working in Marcus Hook where I learned the trade of a pipefitter from there I went to work in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard from where I retired. After retiring I began traveling to various places here and abroad. My wife and I enjoyed traveling to visit our two grandchildren in the many places where they lived. I guess in the sphere of religion and politics I would be considered a dinosaur but try to help out wherever I am able to. I enjoy jigsaw puzzles and crosswords.

## Who Am I?

Answer on Page 7

## What we're reading:

In March we're asking folks to read or re-read *Hidden Inheritance* by Rev. Heidi Neumark in preparation for two events. The book has been described as "part detective story, part memoir, but most of all an exquisite meditation on the fractured family of Christians and Jews as seen by one who now lives in both worlds" (Richard Lischer, Duke Divinity School).

**Interfaith Book Discussion** on March 19th at 3:00 PM at Brandywine Hundred Library

**Author Talk** on April 22 at Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle from 10 am—1 pm (with lunch)

Copies of the book are available in the church office and are available as an e-book.

## THANK YOU ...

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Dr. Seuss Pancake breakfast**. According to our Counters, Zion raised over \$1900 to help the budgeting needs of the Blum family. We are so grateful for your generosity and so happy that so many joined in the celebratory experiences of the Dr. Seuss Worship Service as well.

The Youth and Families Missional Goal Team provided the material and spiritual resources for this fundraiser. Please thank Susan Walker and her team!

## Meal and a Message

### ..an informal gathering

We will eat when the food is ready (about 6:15) in Luther Hall. The table is open to all and late comers with empty hands are always welcome. Lutherans feed everyone and we haven't ever run out of food so don't be shy just come join us for this casual, come as you are, fellowship and meal.

Please plan to join us for the next meal on **March 3 & 17** at 6:00 pm.

## ON-GOING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Food Pantry:** Tues-Wed-Thursday  
9:30—11:00 a.m.

\*Beginning 4/4 the Tues. evening meeting will move from 7:00 to 6:30

<b>AA</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>noon</b>
<b>Meetings:</b>		<b>7:00 pm</b>
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>
	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for Spiritual Growth Hour in March:  
***Luther and the Reformation***

When an Augustinian monk presented an academic paper criticizing his church's fund-raising strategies, he had absolutely no idea this would lead to his excommunication and set Europe in flames.

As we mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, join us to explore key documents in the controversy, from Luther's 95 Theses to recent agreements from Lutheran-Catholic dialogues. Led by Rev. Barbara Melosh and Gary Kulik—a Lutheran pastor and a Catholic!

**9:00 am, March 5, 12, 19, and 26.**

***What's happening soon***

- Mar 1** 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday  
Service with Spirit of Life
- Mar 4** 12:30– 1:30 Confession
- Mar 5** 10:30 am  
First Communion  
Stewardship Committee  
following worship
- Mar 7** 11 am Bible Study  
6:30 pm ZEEC Board
- Mar 14** 9:30 am Council Meeting
- Mar 18** Property Work Day 9-12  
(March 16-18 Pastor Melissa is away attending the American Academy of Religion Conference)
- Mar 19** Interfaith Discussion of  
*Hidden Inheritance*, 3 pm  
Brandywine Hund. Library
- April 9** Peace and Reconciliation Walk  
following Healing Service at St. Stephen's 4:00 pm  
Choir practice: Thursday at 7:00 pm



**Grace Cafe**

We gather to fill a spiritual need and  
to discover what our world needs

1st & 3rd Thursday

6:30 pm

St. Stephen's

1301 N Broom Street

Wilmington, DE

Facebook.com/groups/

## Answer to Who Am I?

Mr. John Nothstein



## ELCA NEWS

### New Leadership Initiative scholarships

The ELCA Fund for Leaders supports students studying at ELCA seminaries who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential and exceptional gifts for ministry. As part of the Leadership Initiative, Fund for Leaders is granting 20 full-tuition Leadership Initiative scholarships to applicants who will be first-year students in the 2017-18 academic year. Applications are due Feb. 28. For more information, visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](http://ELCA.org/fundforleaders).

### Youth Gathering Theme Song Contest

Calling all musicians and writers! The ELCA Youth Gathering is offering people from across our church the opportunity to submit their original music composition to be selected for the theme song of the 2018 Gathering in Houston, Texas. The contest will run from Feb. 15 to April 15, 2017. The winner will have an opportunity to perform at the Gathering! For details, visit [ELCA.org/YouthGathering/details/theme-song-contest](http://ELCA.org/YouthGathering/details/theme-song-contest).

### New book great for reading groups and individuals

In “Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation,” pastor and provocateur Alice Connor introduces the women of the Bible and invites us to see them not as players in a man’s story but as fierce foremothers of the faith—and invites us to discover our own fierceness as well. Order now at [augsborgfortress.org/fierce](http://augsborgfortress.org/fierce).

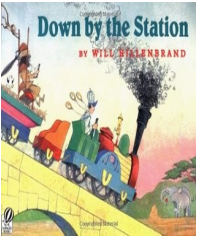


### Living Lutheran story digest

Sign up for *Living Lutheran’s* e-digest, which will deliver the latest and most popular stories from *Living Lutheran* to your email inbox. You can select how often you’d like to receive the emails, and you can choose from six content categories to select what kinds of stories you’d like to receive. Subscribe at [livinglutheran.org/subscribe](http://livinglutheran.org/subscribe).

## No Winter Doldrums at Hilltop!

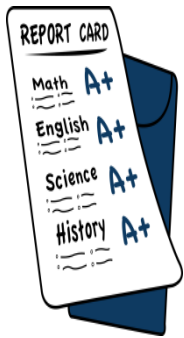
Some of us may be experiencing the late winter doldrums, but such is not the case at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.



Our Early Childhood Development classes certainly have NO doldrums! They are working with a lesson titled “Vroom, Vroom!” The books in the plan include *Traffic*, *Sylvia’s Garage*, and *Down By the Station*. Center Education Coordinator, Heather Fortney says the theme “focusses on different types of transportation and how and when each are used.”

Meanwhile, at the other end of the age spectrum, Youth Services Director, Matthew Johnson reports the Jr. NBA program has “started off with a bang!” In addition, Matt says “I am currently trying to ensure that all of the kids that want to participate can.” More teams had to be added as the number of kids flocking to the center to take part keeps increasing. And that’s a good thing. Also for the older kids, Matt restarted the “Boys to Men” program. This program “will continue to teach and empower our young men to be more civic minded and educationally focused.”

Speaking of education, if I’m not mistaken, we are in the third marking period of the school year and that means school visits and review of report cards. Both efforts focus on how the Center can assist students with identifying weak knowledge areas and establishing ways to improve them. Center Assistant Education Coordinator, Courtney Grey, has that responsibility and reports “significant progress with scheduling school visits” and working with the individual students.



Clubs have been a mainstay of Center activities almost since its inception over 50 years ago, and 2017 is no different. In the spotlight this month is the Cooking Club which has been experimenting with Brazilian Cheese Bread. In this case, the cooking was linked with a discussion about the history and culture of Brazil as the kids baked and shared their knowledge with each other. Sounds both fun and yummy!

One last note, volunteers are always needed at the Hilltop Center, especially in after school tutoring. If you can help, please contact the center at (302) 656-3224 and ask for Courtney Grey, our Assistant Education Coordinator. Thank you.

*Eric F. Mease*

*Member, Board of Directors, Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center*

## SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

**SAVE the DATE:** **Lutheran Volunteer Corps Bowl-a-thon** will be

Sunday, April 30, 2017, Pleasant Hill Lanes (Stanton/Newport)

Registration 1:30-2:00, Bowling 2:00- 4:00 pm

See Eleanor Outten for more details on registration.



**Oldlutheran.com** says, "Whether you plan to "Give up" something or "take on" something we have created a seven part resource with the theme '**Give it up for Lent**'."

Seven words each with a slightly different look at what it means to "Give it up." Of course we have a "Give it up" T-shirt but we also have buttons that you can give to your study group, congregation or during a children's service. Each button has a different word that can be the theme of the week or part of a seven week Bible Study. Dig in, and discover what it means to "**Give it up**".

***Give up. Refrain. Engage. Retreat. Sacrifice. Let Go. Thanksgiving. Accept.***

Here is just a little start for you to dream, study and prepare to *Give it up for Lent*.

**Refrain.** We can for a brief time in our life "give up" some vice or practice for a period of time. Perhaps we could refrain from drinking coffee for seven weeks so we better experience the joy or energy that it gives us when we drink it again on Easter Sunday. We refrain from eating dessert or drinking alcohol or watching television.

**Engage.** Another way would be to give it up in all caps with an explanation point as in to get really excited. GIVE IT UP! Lent is here and we can as a community of believers gather together and celebrate this often somber season in the church year. It could be completely possible to CELEBRATE Lent with our whole heart while we remain quite and contemplative.

**Retreat.** What if we were to evaluate our lives and realize that we fight or resist a regiment of prayer and the use of scripture as a tool to experience our life of faith. What if we "Give up" the fight and actually spend more time in prayer or intentional relationship with God.

**Sacrifice.** Different than giving up sweets or caffeine, sometimes we take life's comforts for granted. It is more difficult but could be much more poignant to actually sacrifice so that we can better understand those without such comforts. Could consider giving up" hot showers or warm blankets or your car for a time to experience the life of those less privileged?

**Let Go.** Stress can be a badge of honor as we go through our daily lives. We can with great satisfaction proclaim that life is hard and I am muscling through. Imagine rather than embracing or enduring through stressful situations actually "Giving it up" to God in prayer.

**Thanksgiving.** We live in a do it yourself society. We are quick to accept the credit for our successes and accomplishments. What if it became more common place to "Give up" the credit to God. Recognize daily that day to day activities are a result of God given abilities.

**Accept.** Sometimes we need to be challenged to "give up" our prejudice or bias that keep us from experiencing a broader more diverse community.

However you "**Give it up!**" this year, be it avoiding, experiencing or retreating, we hope that these weeks leading up to the resurrection will fill your soul and guide you to "The peace that passes all understanding."



As we remember the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, don't forget to cheer for Martin Luther and Philipp Melanchthon in

**The 2017 Bracket**

[www.Lentmadness.org](http://www.Lentmadness.org)

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**2101 Lancaster Avenue**  
**Wilmington, DE 19805**  
**(302) 658-5288**  
**FAX (302) 658--2335**  
**www.zionluther.org**

**Church Service Schedule:**

**Holy Communion Service**

8:00 am

10:30 with choir

*Coffee & fellowship in the  
 narthex following worship*

**Spiritual Growth Hour**

9:00 am

**Sunday School**

10:30 am

**Congregational Leadership**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Roles/Committees</b>	<b>Committee Chairs</b>
Rick Fuller	Christian Education liaison	
Josh Lafferty	President & Stewardship liaison	
Russell Craig	Treasurer	
Carol Egan	Worship & Music liaison	Jean Krapf
Gordon Fisher	Vice-President & Mutual Ministry liaison	
Harvey Fisher	Property liaison	
Kathy Markham	Personnel liaison	webmaster
Bob Mazzoni	Finance liaison	Property
Jane Snyder	Secretary & Evangelism liaison	
	Social Ministry liaison	Eleanor Outten
Melissa Lemons	Pastor & ZEEC liaison	

Council secretary Jane Snyder  
 Financial Secretary Betty Beyer  
 Sunday School Supt. Debbie Fuller

**Missional Goal Team Chairs**  
 Youth and Family, Susan Walker

**EMAIL: [zionluther@comcast.net](mailto:zionluther@comcast.net)**

**WEBSITE: [www.zionluther.org](http://www.zionluther.org)**

**Kathy Markham, webmaster at**

**[Zion\\_web@comcast.net](mailto:Zion_web@comcast.net)**