

**Voter's Assembly Meeting**  
**April 13, 2010**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**

- I. Call to Order – Vice-President Jim Shirilla called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Opening Devotion – Pastor Kenny led the opening devotion.
- III. Approval of Voters Assembly Minutes  
It was moved by Randy Hitts and supported by Susan George to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Reports
  - A. Treasurer's Report (see attached)  
Jim Washburn reported that we have spent more than has come in during the first quarter of the 2010 year.
  - B. Board of Finance - Steve Watson (see attached)  
Steve noted that the budget is \$8,000 short at this time and a spending watch has been put into play. Do our best not to spend for now.  
Estates of Leona Lempke and Gladys Schleben have donated \$31,000 to Zion for whatever use deemed necessary. The Board of Finance would like to see this used to pay down the debt on the bank building.  
It was moved by Steve Watson and supported by Carl Luepnitz to apply the \$31,000. estate donations of Gladys Schleben and Leona Lempke to pay down the debt. The motion passed unanimously.
  - C. Board of Elders – Greg Frey offered many thanks to all who helped with the Holy Week prayer vigil and Easter breakfast. If you are interested in helping on mission trip to Reed City in May please call Bob Manning.
  - D. Board of Evangelism – Randy Hitts reported that the focus is outreach and prayer walks. Hopefully will be doing a walk at the end of April with the improved weather.

Thank you to Steve Kerher for preaching the homily and Carl Schneider for help with the service last weekend. June 27 the worship team will be piloting a contemporary worship service at 9:00 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. It is hoped that we will reach more of the unchurched with this informal style of worship.

E. Board of Trustees –  
Thank you to Mary-Martha for the new dishwasher in our kitchen. The Board is now going to do repairs and painting on plaster. Thank you also to an anonymous member who donated two new drinking fountains. The Board has installed mixing valves in bathrooms downstairs for the safety of the children. This will alleviate problems with the water being too hot. There will be an outdoor work bee on Saturday, April 17. Raking, repair of grass where snowplow damaged the sod, and hedge trimming are planned. Dan Finkbeiner is working to locate all church keys and trying to log their whereabouts. We may have to rekey or get keyless entry cards. Lori Luepnitz suggested that we consider draping the outside cross for next Lenten or Easter season. This has been done in the past and makes a powerful statement to all who drive past the church. Lori will check with Altar Guild for help on this, too.

F. Preschool Report – Susan Hitts reported that the Board felt the Open House was very successful. There are already 12 4-year olds, and 5 3-year olds enrolled for next fall.

Special activities included: Easter celebration, April Fool's Day celebration, Spring Sing, May 6 at 10:30 service, Zion pre-school yard sale for scholarship and general fund. Spring cleaning in April and May – inside and outside. Pre-school graduation on June 4<sup>th</sup> in the church at 7:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend.

G. Leadership Review Board - Greg Frey reported that the ministry plan is summarized and available. The full plan "draft" is still in process and available for members review, as well. All details will be voted upon at the June Voter's Meeting.

H. Committee reports

1. Growth Fund - Carl Luepnitz reported that a new tenant is moving into the bank building – Dr. Michael Koskus, Audiologist. \$31,000 estate donations are a welcome contribution to the reduction of the mortgage.

2. Church Use - None

3. Nominating Committee- Jim Shirilla read the list of candidates for various positions. (See attached)

## I. Director of Family Life – Dan Longden

1. **Sunday/Monday Worship:** Nothing out of the ordinary. Enjoying the children’s messages.
2. **Senior High:** We have kicked off our Small Groups for both the SR and JR High students and it is going very well. The students seem more focused on the topic at hand as well as being more open to participate in the discussion. It also helps that we meet at the Bob-In for dessert!

We will be having our 30 Hour Famine later this month on the 23 and 24 at the PUMC. We have and will be collecting donations for the next couple of weeks to raise money to send to World Vision to support those children in Haiti who have a great need. Please consider how you can help.

3. **Junior High Youth:** Our JR and SR High students made “no-sew” blankets for our local DHS to give to families in need. They also purchased new socks to donate to the local Project Connect.
4. **Sunday School/Children’s Church:** A special thank you to all who have volunteered at our Children’s Church. Volunteers truly do make a difference no matter how big or small the deed! Please consider helping out in the near future, before May 30.
5. **Confirmation:** We confirmed 3 young men – Johnathon Klonowski, Mason Norton, and Logan Bickel on Palm Sunday. Take a moment to continue and encourage their future attendance and participation at Zion. We will resume class on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Child Care/Nursery:** All is running fairly smoothly. If you know of anyone that might be interested in covering for Lydia on the Sundays when the handbells play during the beginning of service, I would like to talk to that person.
7. **Vacation Bible School:** We are planning for 150 students this year for our June 21-25 program. If you would like to help out for some or all of those days, let me know.
8. **Mission:** Our destination and time frame is set for this year’s mission trip. We will be going to Newark, NY from July 11-16 to serve the community of Newark. This will be a high school and middle school trip. Currently, there are ten (10) student spots reserved and three (3) adult spots reserved. If you know of someone who would like to go or wants to learn more information about it, please don’t hesitate to call Dan Longden for more details.
9. **Computer IT:** All is running smoothly, which is rare in the IT world.
10. **Thrivent:** We will be looking for another individual to take my position with as Zion’s Congregational Coordinator. Please see me if you are interested in helping allocate Thrivent funds to our congregation. I can put you in touch with the right people.

## J. Pastor’s Report – Pastor

1. **Youth Ministry/Dan Longden.** Dan was interviewed on March 4 by the Board of Leadership Review regarding his ministry plan, and work to date. He is in the process of implementing the goals reviewed by the LRB.
2. **Jack Mosher.** Jack has enrolled in the Deacon program of the Michigan District, and he has begun classes leading to certification as a deacon. Some care will need to be taken in the next few months to detail the “church plant initiative” in our ministry plan, and to define the expectations and role

Jack is to play in that process. Care must be taken to clarify everyone's expectations at the outset, and to clearly define the work responsibilities that Jack will undertake during his education, and then upon graduation. I am asking that the Leadership Review Board take the lead in this regard, as an outgrowth of the ministry plan process that is currently underway.

- 3 **Poor Box Funds.** With input from the elders, poor box funds have been distributed to a relative of a church member in need, plus an additional \$1000 has been distributed to the four agencies approved at by Voters (Nehemiah, St. Francis, Northwest Community Services, and Salvation Army).
- 4 **Monday Service.** Monday Worship continues going strong. We also plan to begin a "contemporary" format on Sunday morning (between services in the multi-purpose room) for three weeks this Summer.
- 5 **Sick and Shut-In Visits.** I continue to visit every month (usually on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Everyone is welcome to join me. If you know of members who need home or hospital or nursing home visits, please contact me so that we can follow up with a visit.
- 6 **Pastor Peter.** Pastor Peter and his family (from South Africa) have been invited to visit our congregation. I am awaiting more information from Pastor Peter regarding his readiness to visit. We have lost track of him. I hope the visit can be this Summer, before my Sabbatical
- 7 **Mother's Day Testimony.** Susan Hitts, a nationally recognized devotion leader with MOPS International, and a member of the congregation, has been approved by the Board of Elders to address the congregation in a "testimony" format for Mother's Day. The theme is to encourage mothers and women in their role as mothers.
- 8 **Sunday/Monday Lay Sermon This Week.** Steve Kehrer preached for me last Sunday, April 11 and on Monday, April 12. This is the weekend off that the elders gave me as a part of pastor appreciation month last year. Linda and I spent the weekend in Chicago with our daughter, Kaitlin. Thank you!!!!
- 9 **Office Administrative Position.** Dee Kiebel and Jane Montgomery have become permanent hires to serve in the office on a part-time basis. Dee is Office Administrator. Jane is Office Assistant and Financial Secretary.
- 10 **Evangelism Outreach.** Door to door outreach continues. Several expressed interest in attending worship, although we tried our best to only ask for prayer requests and their opinions on how we could be a better, more faithful, church.
- 11 **Pastor's Sabbatical.** I plan on beginning my 90 day Sabbatical on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, and to resume to my duties on Monday, December 6. Pastor Kromer has agreed to cover for me during this time, and will be responsible for all pastoral duties under direction of the Board of Elders.
- 12 **New Day Care/Elementary School.** Some desire has been expressed for Zion to form a "new" church school in the area, as part of our ministry plan.

Upon approval, I recommend the formation of an exploratory committee charged with determining the feasibility of this outreach effort.

- 13 **Worship Bulletins.** Worship bulletins and outlines have been prepared thru September 6, 2010. My hope is to finish drafting all those needed thru the end of 2010 by the end of April. This would allow Pastor Kromer to focus on other matters of more pressing need.
- 14 **Worship Hymnal Supplement.** Plans are underway to compile an additional “hymnal” including hymns not found in LSB. Carl Oberg, Dave and Brenda Pugh, and Randy Hitts, will assist me in this project. I hope to have the supplement ready by Summer, and would like to start “hymn-sings” before services then.

VI. Unfinished/New Business - None

VII. Membership Changes

**A. Transfer In Members**

1. T. David, Brenda J., Lydia J., Benjamin J. & Justin D. Pugh from Liberty Baptist Church, Alanson, MI
2. Mark Rybicki from Bethany Lutheran Church, Charlevoix, MI
3. Janette, Abigail, Katherine & David Moeller from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Eden Valley, MN

**B. Transfer Out Members**

1. Norman, Tanya Shawn and Halli Davidson to Centerpoint Church, Kalamazoo, MI

**C. Infant/Child Baptisms**

Non-member Status

1. Justin David Pugh, Benjamin Joseph Pugh, and Lydia Jean Pugh, children of Dave and Brenda Pugh
2. Brayden Lee Simmons, son of Zachary & Karen Simmons

**D. Communicant Members 440**

**E. Non-Confirmed Youth 60**

**F. Associate Members 56**

**G. Inactive Members 81**

**H. Archived by Death**

1. Harold W. “Doc” McCaughrin, 2/13/10
2. Arlene E. Simmons, 2/21/10
3. Donna Buchinger, 3/5/10

**Total Souls to Date: 437**

It was moved by Merton Roberts and supported by Jack George to accept the membership changes, as indicated. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Other - None

X. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Pastor led the Voters Assembly in a closing prayer. A motion was made by Jim Washburn and supported by Steve Watson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The Voters Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith K. Mitchell  
Recording Secretary