

**TWO-HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Cobleskill, NY 12043**

January 25, 2015



Annual Report of the Congregation

To all members of Zion Lutheran Church and St. Matthew's Chapel

The Congregation of Zion was organized in 1793. Therefore, the people of Zion and St. Matthew's will gather for the 221st meeting of the congregation, on Sunday, January 25, 2015 (at 12:45), immediately following the 11am worship service the business meeting will be held. The meeting will be conducted by the Congregation Council President and reports will be discussed and the budget adopted for 2015. A light soup and bread lunch will be provided.

Please bring this copy of the Annual Report to the meeting.

Devotions for a Congregational Meeting

Opening of a Meeting:

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

A Confession

C: Lord, we confess our sin:

L: The sin of looking too often over our neighbor's fences, wishing we had that too. Help us see with thankful eyes what we already have at home.

L: The sin of feeling too often overlooked, wishing we had those other gifts too. Help us love wholeheartedly the designs you already have for us.

L: The sin of acting too often as if you were not here—wishing, when only prayer will do. Help us live with faithful purpose, knowing all things already come from you.

C: In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sing: Great is thy Faithfulness (see handout)

Pray:

C: O Lord, let us act faithfully in this world on your behalf, without fear, trusting in your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, empowered by the Holy Spirit, enjoying all your gifts in their appointed time, and seeking our true joy in the pursuit of our neighbor's well-being, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Read the Gospel: Mark 6:32-44

L: What have we read? What was the need?

C: food for more than 5,000

L: How many were disciples?

C: twelve

L: And the hour was late.

L: What was Jesus' challenge?

C: "Go and see."

L: And the resources?

C: five loaves and two fish

L: But look again. How many do you see with compassion?

C: one

L: with faith?

C: one

L: with vision?

C: one

L: with leadership ability?

C: one

L: with a thankful heart?

C: one

L: with a giving attitude?

C: one

ALL: Jesus—the One we need, the One who died for us, the One who rose again, the One who lives in us!

C: How many ate?

L: everyone!

C: Who received abundance?

L: everyone!

C: Who heard the message?

L: everyone!

C: Who recognized the Lord?

L: everyone!

C: Who was a part of the miracle?

ALL: everyone!

L: It's still true today! Look for it in the agenda of this meeting, in the reports, in the plans, in the people of our congregation, our conference, our synod, our church.

ALL: Amen!

Closing of a Meeting

A Litany of Celebration

L: Some of us hurried here. Some hurry away. All have shared Christ's compassion and love.

C: Some of us have been surprised; some put off by the demand. All have seen anew the gifts at hand among us here.

L: Oh Jesus, thank you for this challenge. Thank you for this work. Thank you for teaching flowing from your heart. Thank you for the people, gathered near in need, and thank you for your mercies scattered here like seed.

ALL: We celebrate the five, celebrate the two. We celebrate the wonders of all that you can do with people you've forgiven, with people you've made new and sent into the world to demonstrate what's true.

Sing: Take My Life, that I May Be (see handout)

Pray:

ALL: O Lord, so that all may hear the call and give their all, take me. O Lord, take all, my all. Remove, remake. An empty vessel fill—with joy and love, to celebrate the fulfillment of your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

L: Let us go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To Love God,
To Live For God,
To Serve Others,
To Share Our Faith in Jesus Christ!

ZION PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE:

God's purpose for our Church is to love and worship Jesus Christ and to share God's grace.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Jesus Christ is our Savior
2. Everyone is welcome here with acceptance, love, and prayer!!
3. Be open to and follow God's direction with prayer and praise.
4. In baptism the Holy Spirit makes us instruments of God to share the knowledge of God's grace in Jesus Christ with others.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHAPEL PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE:

God's purpose for the people of St. Matthew's Chapel is to love and worship God by sharing God's grace through service and fellowship.

PRINCIPLES:

1. We will proclaim Jesus as Savior
2. We will welcome everyone here!!
3. We will acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is the gift that gives us power to be open to God and follow God's direction.
4. Guided by prayer and purpose, we will feed the spirit and body of all.
5. We will share the knowledge of God's grace with others.

Congregation Council

Council President	Judith Warner
Vice President	Carol McGuire
Secretary	Rose Swanhall
Sandy Deems	Thomas Collins
Eilene Fisher	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Church Treasurer	Deborah Nadeau
Financial Secretary, interim	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis

Staff

Zion's Organist	Carol McGuire
St. Matthew's Organist	Mary-Jane Bianchine
Zion's Sexton	Lindsay Monser
St. Matthew's Sexton	Lindsay Monser
Administrative Assistant	Debbie Walther

Annual Meeting Agenda

Opening Devotions
 Minutes of the 2014 Meeting
 Pastor's Report
 Treasurer's Report
 2015 Budget Proposal
 Election of Council & Synod Assembly Delegates
 Ministry Team Reports
 New Business - RIC
 Appointment of Auditors
 Closing Devotions

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Annual Meeting Opening Devotions (See inside cover of Annual Report)

220th Annual Congregational Meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 26, 2014

CALL TO ORDER—The meeting was called to order by President Judy Warner at 12:50 pm with a quorum present. A hymn was sung and Pastor read the gospel of the day. Moved by Jean Bakkom and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2013 annual congregational meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT—President Judy took the opportunity to comment on a few of the various ministries that have begun as a result of Pastor Sara's leadership; e.g., Bible study at Hammerstone, requested by a patron of the Food Pantry; Stephen Ministries training; to name a few. Also noted was Pastor's doctoral work.

Judy also drew attention to the Annual Report and commented on St. Matt's marching in the Sharon Springs parade. She thanked Camille for playing violin at St. Matt's monthly; the Thanks Service at St. Matt's; Brian, for playing trumpet; Rose Swanhall, doing Sunday crafts with the children. Noted the Crop Walk being led by John Jarvis.

COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS

Events—Eilene announced the Breakfast for Dinner event on Feb. 28; asked for any additional ideas people might have; the committee hopes to attract non-members to events and believes that people are looking at Zion since we have begun to reach out to the community.

Food Pantry—Sandy said that it is growing and thanked the congregation for its support of this mission; noted an increased need—141 client/53 families on Jan. 25. Received a large discount from Shaul's for fresh produce.

Parson's Closet—thanks to Teddy and her husband for their work, along with two volunteers, to straighten up in the pantry.

W.E.L.C.A.—sent 12 quilts to Syracuse; ingathering kits being made for children; Foothills Assembly presence; Ninth Triennial of ELCA gatherings.

Property—major exterior work at the parsonage has generated good comments to André; will concentrate this year on maintenance;

thanked Pam Kostbar-Jarvis for weeding; adjustment to St. Matt's door completed.

St. Matthew's Chapel—Sheetrock repairs completed; made \$200+ on pumpkin auction; Thanks Service held; Christmas program with Emma and Lara singing. John J. and Suzanne Graulich thanked for teaching Sunday school.

Stewardship "Nuggets"—Sandy thanked for all that she does. Judy thanked Adrienne and Pam for serving as secretary and interim secretary, respectively.

BISHOP'S REPORT—highlighted the number of new calls this year and a letter from our missionary.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Tom Collins, Chair of the Finance Comm., reviewed revenue and expenses for 2013, noting the deficit. Highlights of the 2014 budgets were reviewed and updated, with an additional \$46,000 approx. in pledges, unpledged, approx. \$12,000; total revenue, approx. \$70,075. \$2,500 increase in salary for Pastor and \$2,500 for her additional insurance expense. Difference of \$87,000 between revenue and expenses. Even with FAM interest, we will be short \$42,000 this year. Barb Cousineau moved/seconded/accepted the report but with an additional \$4,000 added to pledges and the deficit reduced correspondingly.

USE OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS—Jean moved seconded/approved that we recommend revising the Bylaws so that the endowment funds may be consolidated into one fund. Jean was empowered to recommend any revisions needed in either or both the Constitution and the By-laws. It was suggested that Carol and Bob also be involved in the review, written presentation be made to the congregation, and a special meeting called thereafter to consider proposed changes. Because of these changes, there will be no appointments to membership on the Endowment Committee until afterwards.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT—for two, three-year Council seats (Lisa and Bob's); and a two-year term replacing Janice.

Rose S., Eilene, Lisa, Bob nominated by the committee, Sandy Deems nominated from the floor. Jean moved/seconded/approved nominations be closed. It was reported after congregational voting that Rose, Eilene, and Sandy were elected. The new Council will decide who will have the two-year term. Bob, Lisa, and Janice were thanked for their service.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY—Eilene and Sandy have been asked to be our representatives and agreed to serve. Carol moved/seconded/approved. Tom and Carol will serve as back-ups.

AUDITORS—Jean and Richard appointed by acclamation to conduct an audit within the next few months.

Judy thanked Bob, Lisa, and Janice for their service on the Council. She also thanked those who provided soups and desserts for lunch—Pam, Debbie, Pastor, Teddy, and Rose S.

Closing Devotions were led by Pastor and the meeting was adjourned with a reorganization meeting of the new Council to follow.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol S. McGuire
Council Secretary

Re-organizational meeting of the 2014 Congregation Council

January 26, 2014

Judy was asked to serve again as President; Carol will serve as Vice-President; Rose Swanhall will serve as Secretary. Council meetings will be held at 2 pm on the second Sunday of the month. Pam proposed that, since Council members serve on several committees, consolidation should be considered. She proposed that Evangelism, Events, Christian Education, Stewardship, and Worship and Music be consolidated. Her mnemonic device to remember them by is Pizzazz (? You will have to ask her).

Next meeting on Feb. 16 at 2 pm. Events Committee will meet at 7 pm on Feb. 11.

Meeting adjourned by Judy at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol S. McGuire
Council Secretary

Nominating Committee

Congregational council members whose 1st terms expire are Tom Collins, who is filling John Jarvis' term and who declines a second year. Judith Warner's 2nd term will also be expiring.

The nominations for council are: John Jarvis representing St. Matthew's Chapel and Vern Hall representing Zion as well as Teddy Beaver.

Synod Assembly Delegates will be:

- female
- male
- alternate

The Assembly will be held in Rochester at the end of May. We will accept nominations from the floor for a female, a male, and an alternate.

We truly thank all that have served God in these positions.

Submitted by, Judith Warner
Chairperson, Nominating Committee

The Pastor's Report

By Reverend Sara Litzner



This cartoon appeared on my Facebook timeline a few weeks ago – it made me laugh because it is so true. For about two days, it went viral, especially among clergy all across the country. It went viral because of the truth it speaks about us. We want change, but when we think about things changing, we tend to think of what others need to do first – before we think of what "I" must do. The truth is, though, that change begins at home. Change starts with the "I", whether it is a change in the way we think, act, or process.

In several ways, this is exactly what has happened over the past several years. Zion has gone through many and various kinds of changes. Some of the changes have been out of necessity, and some

have been intentional. At any rate, Zion has been moving in new directions.

This year, we took up the Community Dinners, in addition to summer lunch and vacation lunch programs. At first, the Community Dinners started out slow but have progressively picked up momentum. We have some very familiar faces at the Community Dinners, but also continue to see new faces. I remember going home to report to Jonathan, "Guess what we are going to do?" Once I told him about the Community Dinners, he asked me, "How did you manage that?" Every time I am asked that type of question, all I can say is, "It is not me, it is the people at the Church." What is most amazing is that people look for our sign and participate when they see it. If you have not participated in the Community Dinners, I hope you will do so soon. For those that have worked so hard to make them happen, I am appreciative of your time and effort. Every month the energy around our meals increases, especially as we get to know the people in our community.

Some have asked about Stephen Ministry. We have had a hiatus in our Stephen Minister Training mainly due to illness of either Stephen Ministers themselves or their family. We will be picking training up again this year once we are able to work out a time that is appropriate for everyone concerned. We are a little over half way through the training course at this time, and look to finish by the summer.

Overall, we tried some things that went well, and we tried some things that did not work out as well. Ash Wednesdays services, and "Ashes to Go" did not have a lot of community participation. We did have a few people, though, that did come specifically because of our openness to host ashes for everyone. I was glad to see those that gave it a go and tried something different. As we look to Ash Wednesday and Lent this year, there is new opportunity to engage our community in a new way once again.

I am about half way done. "Half way done with what?," you might ask. I am half way completed with work on my Doctor of Ministry program. For the last two years I have been engaged in course work that has been fairly intense. This spring I will complete much of the course work on my project, hopefully my project (which has been approved by the review board), and begin the writing stage. Shortly, I will be posting notice of informed consent. This is to cover all bases, and people that have specifically been interviewed will be asked to sign the informed consent. As part of my Dmin. work, we took the survey for Natural Church Development.

The results have come in, and Tom and I have been reading the material that came with our results. We will speak more about it in the following months. I can tell you this, the area that scored the lowest was Passionate Spirituality, and we scored highest in Need Oriented Evangelism. This means there is an incongruence between how we act out our faith and how we express it.

It is my hope that we will continue to support the Youth Soccer program this summer. Last summer we supported a team of 7-8 year olds. We had a game each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the month of July. We were not able to play all of our games because of weather, however, we did win all the games we played. The kids had fun, and it is awesome when they wave to me at school when I pick my own children up.

Of course, we continue to work at many of our food ministries together. The Food Pantry, Summer Food and Service Program, Vacation Lunch, Community Dinners, and Parsons Closet and St. Matthew's continues to host monthly activities and meals as well. St. Matthew's has been working to find a form of Sunday School that works for them and the community. Bible Study continues to meet on Thursdays at about 10:30 am. Usually, we enjoy going out to lunch following the Bible Study. Family Worship gathers on the first Sunday of each month at about 4:30 pm. We have worship together and enjoy dinner afterwards in the fellowship hall. We will have a Lenten series again this year, on Wednesday evenings. We will focus on Matthew 5:38 ff., and Luke 6:27 ff.

We actually have a great deal going on. Sometimes it is more than we can handle with our own group of people. I am so pleased that we have begun working with other congregations and community members. This not only builds relationships but it shows us God is working in there outside our building as well. It is a great way to get to know people and their stories, and to share our story as well.

Council President's Report

It has been a full year for Zion and for our council. Our Community outreach with our free lunches and dinners have been a success, growing all the time. Comments I have heard are, they realize that Zion isn't that unapproachable church with those large stone steps, they see Zion as a friendly place to be. St. Christopher's Episcopal Church and Barnerville United Methodist Church have become great partners helping us out. We grew from just a few

people enjoying our meals to now up to 70 people. We are growing.

This is my 6th year on Church Council and my third year as Council President and per our constitution, I cannot be on council. I have served my two three-year terms and I have enjoyed serving our congregation. I will continue to have an active part of Zion, still helping with the Food Pantry, Parson's Closet, Stephen Ministries, and the various lunch programs.

Our Mission Statement is

**'TO LOVE GOD,
TO LIVE FOR GOD,
TO SERVE OTHERS,
AND TO SHARE OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.'**

We are truly are living up to this. I really love organizing and managing all the lunch programs. The week prior I get uneasy feelings, thinking I have forgotten something, that we won't have enough help, nobody will show up, we won't have enough food, it just goes on and on. My only saving grace is to take a deep breath, close my eyes and give it over to God. We always have enough food, enough help, and people do come to eat. During our most recent Vacation Lunch Program, Craig Doherty of Sought After Ministry stopped in asking if we could use bread, rolls, pies and a cake. He gave us four large bags which we used some of the bread, the pies and sheet cake to serve. We then gave families a supply of the breads. I see this as God does provide!! Those families were very appreciative and even shared the breads with their neighbors.

If there is one thing I have learned this past six years of being on council, God is alive and working at Zion with St. Matthew's. We all need to be proud of all the ministries that we are providing to everyone we come in contact with. We may have small numbers, but we are strong in faith.

Submitted by, Judith Warner
Congregation Council President

Finance Committee

The major job of the Finance Committee, which meets each month on the Monday before the Church Council meeting date, is to establish a budget for the church for the coming year. Then throughout the year the committee monitors the expenses and revenues and makes any adjustments that are necessary, considers items that might not

have been in the original budget, and provides a written report to the Council each month.

Trying to determine both expected revenue and expenses for the year can be tricky. However, for the past several years the estimated budget has been very close to the final numbers. This year, we are happy to report that the expected revenue number came in almost \$14,000 higher than the budget figure, and expenses came in almost \$12,000 less than anticipated, which helped close our expected deficit of \$88, 964 by 28%, meaning that less funds were needed from our FAM investment fund to close the deficit. At this time, we don't have the final number on our investment fund performance for the year but that will be reported at the Annual meeting.

Finance Committee members are:

- Thomas Collins
- Deb Nadeau
- Judy Warner
- Pam Kostbar-Jarvis

Events Committee

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

This last year we have had numerous events that have spread God's grace throughout our community! One of these opportunities were through community lunches served during school breaks and over summer vacation. A special thanks to Judy Warner for overseeing these and getting other churches involved. We have also had a community dinner almost every month. The dinners and lunches are free to all! We have served a variety of yummy options, chili, soup, ham, tacos and chicken enchiladas and more at the dinners. This year we did a community dinner the night after Thanksgiving and we had a New Year's Eve party, which was a great success!! We had about 30 people share their night with us! Thank you to Pam Kostbar-Jarvis for her creative ideas, craft projects, never ending energy and enthusiasm you made the night extra special for all of us!!

We had a float in the Holiday parade (thank you to Pastor Sara and her family for making this happen) and a Christmas tree in the Cobleskill village park. We painted soup bowls for the soup fundraiser and had snacks after the string trio concert.

The events committee is always looking for new ideas and events we can do to share God's grace

with our community! Please let us know if you have some you would like to share. Anyone is welcome to come and be on the events committee!!

I thank each and every one of you for your constant support with money, food donations and energy to make our community events successful and to share God's grace to all! I hear nothing but positive feedback and thankfulness from all who come to our lunches and dinners!

We are looking forward to another amazing year. God's peace to you all!

Submitted by, Eilene Fisher
Events Committee

Altar Guild

If anyone would like to serve on this committee, please let Eilene know! We are looking for people to serve one to two months a year! It primarily involves setting up communion for Sunday morning and making sure candles have oil in them. Both Eilene and Pastor Sara would be happy to help train anyone willing to help.

Submitted by, Eilene Fisher
Altar Guild

Zion's Food Pantry

In 2014 the Food Pantry at Zion has served over 150 different households. Some have come only once or twice while other families come more regularly because of limited resources. The average monthly attendance at the Pantry ranges from 40 to 60 households (100 – 150 individuals). November was a high point with 73 households (193 individuals). As cutbacks are made in food stamps and other assistance programs, more people are turning to food pantries for help.

Each month God has blessed the Pantry. There has been enough food to go around and volunteers to serve on Pantry day, shop, shelve, and pick up food from the Regional Food Bank truck. Two grants from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) have helped to reduce the cost of food from the Regional Food Bank. The average cost of food for the Pantry is over \$1,200 per month. God has blessed the Pantry with large donations of food from local food drives and collection points: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, U.S. Postal Carriers, SUNY

groups, the Christmas Train, FAM, Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Zion/St. John's, and St. Matthew's Chapel.

Thank you to all who have made this ministry to the community possible: to each one who has donated money or food items throughout the year, to each one who has prayed for the Pantry and its clients, to each person who has helped with Food Baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and to those who have shopped, shelved, assisted clients, and delivered food.

Please continue to support the Pantry with your prayers, donations, and helping hands. As God has blessed us, let us continue to be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

Summary of Food Pantry Activity for 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Jan.	52	141	\$1,419.24
Feb.	41	113	809.99
Mar.	42	107	1,442.87
Apr.	60	151	1,218.06
(Easter Baskets)			
May	51	126	1,146.03
June	54	131	917.94
July	52	125	1,010.92
Aug.	55	155	824.32
Sept.	58	154	1,141.11
Oct.	46	116	1,844.29
Nov.	73	193	1,647.73
(Thanksgiving Baskets)			
Dec.	61	150	1,626.57
(Christmas Baskets)			

Submitted by, Sandy Deems
Food Pantry Leader

The Parson's Closet

Eilene Fisher and Pat and Doug Macleod continue to maintain the Parson's Closet by sorting through clothing donations each month. The Closet is open on the Saturday that we have the Food Pantry.

Submitted by,
Pastor Sara Litzner

W.E.L.C.A. Circle at Zion

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another

in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Every woman at Zion and St. Matthew's Chapel is a Woman of the E.L.C.A. In this sense, the women of our church have been very busy. They can be found on council, serving at community dinners and lunch programs, taking part in weekly and special services, and ministering to their families and community. Some tie off quilts, others make prayer shawls. Three attended the Foothills W.E.L.C.A. Spring Assembly at St. Paul's in Richmondville.

Quilts and Baby Care Kits will be blessed in the spring before they are delivered to a collection site for Lutheran World Relief.

As we go forth in 2015, let us support each other in prayer and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, knowing the joy of God's grace!

Submitted by, Sandra Deems
W.E.L.C.A Leader

Property Report

Projects that were completed at St Matt's & Zion with funds from the Property Account from Fennimore and from fund raising efforts monies are as follows:

At St Matthew's Chapel:

1) Normal maintenance.

At Zion:

1) Gutters were cleaned.

2) This year's mowing was done by Pastor Sara, we thank her for a job well done. Misc. property weeding, flowers, and mulching was done by church members, great thanks to them also.

3) Elevator repair, misc. sinks clogged, light bulbs and fixtures, and water leak issues here and there were tackled.

4) New flat roof repairs on Sunday school wing and sacristy were completed.

5) Painting of some Sunday school rooms on upper level were completed.

6) Ladies' room toilet was replaced.

7) Two windows in Pastor's office and one in hallway were replaced.

Zion Parsonage:

1) Normal maintenance, stove repair furnace tune up.

With that in mind we start over again for 2015.

Proposed projects for 2015 are as follows:

1) Update Zion assembly hall floor covering needs and water issues.

2) New floor coverings are needed in the church office and Pastor's office. Maybe some remodels to fit new needs.

3) Redo gutters on west side of parsonage.

4) Install new basement window on parsonage where sump pump is to match other basement windows and reroute sump pump line to drainage system.

5) Upgrade parsonage electrical system to breakers and to accommodate a generator if needed.

6) Exterior Painting at St Matthew's Chapel.

Submitted by André Nadeau
Property Chairperson

St. Matthew's Chapel

As usual, the congregation at St. Matthew's Chapel had a busy, productive, fun-filled year. The Ministry Board continued to meet in 2014 on the first Tuesday of the month, often to plan future events.

For example, on March 1 we had our annual Cabin Fever Party with fellowship, games and discounted pizza from Pizza Shack in Cobleskill. Twenty-six people attended.

On March 5, eleven people, including Pr. Sara, worshiped at the Ash Wednesday service.

Twelve worshipers went to our 3:00 pm Good Friday service. Two days later we had 35 at our Resurrection Sunday celebration of our Lord's victory over death.

At Pr. Messner's church in Otsego County, some of us saw Tom Collins commissioned on April 26 as our second deacon.

On May 11 the men of the congregation provided a special Mothers' Day coffee hour.

We held our annual barbecue on May 17 with chicken halves grilled by two members of the Sharon Springs Fire Department. We made lots of money.

Many of us walked in the Sharon Springs Memorial Day parade.

Fathers' Day featured a special ice cream social after worship.

Allen Graulich was confirmed on June 21. A special coffee hour, attended by 21 people, followed.

Weeding and mulching were the early morning activities on July 8, with Pam and Barb doing the bulk of the work. John also did some work.

We mourned the loss of Laila Olsen at her August 14 funeral.

Many of us journeyed to Schenectady on August 19 for a surprise birthday party for Margaret Kettler.

The annual free community-wide Ice Cream Social drew 47 people to the Chapel for free Stewart's ice cream and live music provided by Mary-Jane Bianchine and Camille Grace.

St. Matthew's hosted the annual combined worship service on September 10, when we used our new gas grill for the first time. We got a good deal on it from our local Sears dealership. We got free delivery too. At this service, members of the congregation honored Pr. Sara, with a song written by Pam, for her years of service as an ordained pastor.

Rally Day came on September 14. Sadly, there were no Sunday school students; but Karl Graulich started his final year of Confirmation classes, which meet even now for 45 minutes after Sunday morning worship. At the same time, Jean, Janet and Pam met for adult Bible study---and still do.

Thirty people ate dinner and then spent lots of money at the October 25 annual Pumpkin Auction. Tom Collins was the auctioneer. Money raised went to a local family facing huge financial difficulties.

The annual community-wide Giving Thanks Dinner and Worship Service came on November 22. Twenty-two people attended. Members of other local churches participated in worship.

Four members of our congregation decorated the sanctuary on December 13, the day after Dave Hayner set up our new Christmas tree. The old one went to the December 20 food pantry, where a client took it home.

The first annual non-Sunday school Christmas Program came after dinner on December 20. The readers' theater production, written by Suzanne Graulich and Pam, featured audience participation with Laura Graulich and Pam portraying the two main characters. The total cast appeared on the cover of the current edition of *Zion Life*.

Our Christmas Eve service started at 5:30 pm, with 27 people attending. A highlight of the service was Lara's rendition of "O Holy Night."

As Frank Sinatra sang when John was in college, for St. Matthew's Chapel "It was a very good year."

Thanks be to God!!

Submitted by, John Jarvis
Ministry Board Secretary

Membership Record

Year	Baptized	Confirmed	Communing	Voting*
2014	181	168	186	173
2013	178	165	175	165
2012	178	165	175	165
2011	412	233	97	79
2010	400	233	107	---
2009	482	289	102	115
2008	479	284	97	119
2007	476	279	189	124
2006	469	273	123	133
2005	613	448	190	142

A voting member according to your constitution is a confirmed member who has communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

Average Worship Attendance

Year	*SM 9 am	Zion 11am	Multi-Gen. Worship (4)
2014	10	20	
2013	14	28	18
2012	17	28	
2011	20	27	
2010	Zion 8:30am	9am *SM	11am
2010	50	20	20
2010	8:30am *SM	10:15 Zion	
	18	30	

*SM – St. Matthew's

Year	Zion 8:30am	St. Matthew's 9 am	Zion 11am
2009	45	19	26
2008	48	21	29
2007	53	22	37
2006	51	24	40
2005	56	25	46

2014 Pastoral Acts

Baptisms	First Communion
3	3
New Members	Member Weddings
11	0
Non-Member Weddings	Funerals of Members
3	9

Annual Meeting Closing Devotions
(See inside cover of Annual Report)

Notes