

# News from Old Zion/Alt Zion Lutheran Church



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Rev. Daniel P. Metzger, Pastor  
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## February 2020

*“ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ”*

Romans 8:28

*“ Wir wissen aber, daß denen, die Gott lieben, alle Dinge zum Besten dienen, denen, die nach dem Vorsatz berufen sind. ”*

### **A word from Pastor**

#### **ELCM News**

President Steward has informed us that Mr. Wyatt McIntyre of Chicago is planning to apply for membership in our ELCM. Mr. McIntyre is currently working on an M.Div. and plans to continue his studies in order to earn a Ph.D. He will be a welcome addition to our Ministerium.

#### **Pastor Metzger's trip to India**

*The following is what Pastor Metzger presented to the congregation at our Fellowship Meal in January.*

#### **A Brief Summary of My Activities in India**

As most of you know, I recently made a trip to the city of Guntur in the state of Andhra Pradesh in the southeast part of India. I made the trip at the request and invitation of Rev. Dr. Michael Albrecht, pastor of an independent Lutheran congregation in Minneapolis, MN., who is associated with Luther Academy, an organization which promotes conferences, workshops, and the publication of materials in Confessional Lutheran theology. You may recall that, some years ago, I was asked to be a reactor at a Free Conference in the city of New Ulm, Minnesota. It was Pastor Albrecht who asked me to be part of that conference, and he was also in attendance in Prague for the Reformation Anniversary Conference at which I was asked to make a presentation. Although I had very short notice before the Symposium in India, I was nevertheless glad to accept his invitation.

My trip to India was something of a “whirlwind affair.” I left the airport in Philadelphia on Friday, Jan. 3. Pastor Karin Pejack filled in for me here at Old Zion for Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5. And I was back to preach and conduct services for Sunday, Jan. 12. My advice to anyone planning to travel to India would be that they should allow themselves more time than I gave myself.

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## **A Word from the Pastor (Continued)**

The Symposium at which I presented was sponsored by the Bible Faith Lutheran Church which is centered in Guntur. Pastor Albrecht provides this Symposium every year for the BFLC. We stayed at the home of Pastor Raju Shalem and his family, an apartment located on the second floor above Moriah Lutheran High School which is run by the BFLC. Each day we would be driven to the site of the Symposium—a very large center for conferences which the BFLC rented from a Pentecostal organization. The presentations given at the Symposium provide a source of ongoing professional enrichment and education for the pastors of the BFLC who have graduated from the seminary there in Guntur and who now serve in some forty-five villages throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh.

In the few days I was there in Guntur, I presented at three sessions of the Symposium, as I expected. The subject of my paper was “Luther on the Psalms. In my paper, I connected Luther to the patristic and medieval tradition of interpreting the psalms and provided Luther’s insights into Psalm 1 and Psalm 22. Pastor Albrecht advised me not to cite other sources than Scripture—except perhaps Luther himself—since the pastors attending the Symposium had no other books than the Bible in their homes. The papers presented at the Symposium would become part of their home-libraries. What I had not expected was that Pastor Albrecht would inform me the second day that I was there that I would also be teaching in the seminary for several hours (on the Book of Romans) and that I would be expected to preach for a Vespers Service and for a Matins Service at the Symposium. Needless to say, that made for some frantic evenings of preparation. When I presented, taught, or preached, there was a translator there who put my words into Telugu, the language of Andhra Pradesh and some surrounding areas. Speaking through a translator was a new experience for me. My time in Guntur was both exhilarating and humbling. It was a real thrill to worship with these Lutheran Christians—hearing them sing their hymns and follow their liturgy which is virtually the same as ours. When I looked out over the congregation gathered there in the small church building not far from where we were staying and watched and listened as they joined together in song in praise of Christ, I could not help but think of my own congregation—of how Old Zion praises the Savior in English and in German, and of how your ready reception and greeting of visitors and new members is exactly like the welcome and hospitality I received there, of how you are one with them in faith, and of how you and they would get along so well together.

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### **Bible Study for February**

Our monthly Bible-Study will be held at 12:30pm on Tuesday, February 18, at the church. We will continue our look at the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of Old Zion Lutheran Church for the year 2020 will be held this month—Sunday, February 16, after our combined service at 10:00am. At this meeting we will hold elections, decide on a budget for the year, and discuss how we can best carry out the Lord’s work here at Old Zion. Make plans to attend!



keep up with changes on our web site especially the new Old Zion History blog, and check out our posts on Facebook!

<http://oldzionlutheran.org>

### **Installation of Officers**

The installation of officers and committee-members elected at the Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23. Heartfelt thanks from all of us to those who have served us in the past year and who have agreed to serve Old Zion again in 2020 .

### **Ash Wednesday**

It is hard to believe that the Season of Lent is already nearly upon us. This year Ash Wednesday will be February 26 (NB, Palm Sunday is already the first Sunday of April). This year we plan to have a simple soup dinner at 6:00pm, followed by our joint service with Holy Communion at 7:00pm. You are welcome to bring a sandwich to have with your soup. Ash Wednesday has always been special here at Old Zion—a time when former members and old friends like to come back in order to share fellowship with us over a meal and to worship with us. It’s a great time to invite someone to worship with us!

### **Frauenverein**

Due to the illness of Ruth Reiser the Frauenverein meeting for February is uncertain. We will inform members by phone of time and place when the information becomes available.

### **Going to the grocery store?**

Getting ready for Spring and cleaning out a closet? Remember our on-going ministries of collecting food and clothing for the needy! What you contribute will be put to good use.

*Happy Birthday to You!!*



- 3 -Ryan Reiser    6 - Charlie Davis
- 18 -Betty Meyer    20 - JP Meyer and Sara Dimitri
- 24 - Walter Meyer

### **Please remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers.**

A call, or a card with a few encouraging words is always appreciated.



**A visit with Mr. Siegmund Heise** at Holy Redeemer Lafayette. He sends greetings to the congregation.

**Altar flowers needed for March:** 3/1 - (1);  
3/8 - (2); 3/15- (1) ; 3/29 - (1)

### **Outreach:**

Some members of our Outreach Committee took part in a workshop to learn practical tools to maintain older church buildings and prepare for future capital building projects.

The workshop took place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and was held by Christ Church Neighborhood House 20 N. American St. Philadelphia, Pa 19106

## **Old Zion Lutheran Church**

### **Fellowship Hall Rental Opportunities**

Now that we have incorporated climate control elements into our lovely Fellowship Hall, the council of **Old Zion Lutheran Church** has made the Fellowship Hall available to members, friends, and those in the greater community on a rental basis for various functions, meetings, and events.

The Fellowship Hall is ideal for meetings and classes, small cabaret performances or recitals, and personal celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, etc). The hall can be rented on an hourly basis at \$150 per hour, or for a larger block of time at a discounted rate (4 hours for \$500). Ongoing rentals can also be considered.

Aside from both heating and cooling to meet your needs, the Fellowship Hall has space for approximately 70-90 people. We can provide tables and chairs to accommodate your guests, easy access to bathrooms, and space to put out any refreshments you may wish to serve. Basic wifi is provided, as is a large projector screen that can be pulled down for your convenience. We ask that any decorations be approved prior to use.

For more information, please see our new "Space Rental" page on the website by visiting [www.oldzionlutheran.org/rental](http://www.oldzionlutheran.org/rental), or by searching for **Old Zion Lutheran Church** on the Philadelphia Space Finder ([philly.spacefinder.org](http://philly.spacefinder.org)). For more direct information, please feel free to communicate with **Pastor Metzger** or **Jaye Green**, the head of our leasing committee.