

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE HERALD – FEBRUARY 2017

We are a congregation that strives to be an inviting, faithful, and growing presence in our community and in our world, with a passion for living and spreading the love of Jesus Christ by using our spiritual and material gifts in the service of all God's people

Feb 05	10:00 am	WORSHIP - EPIPHANY V	(Healing Centurion's Slave)
Feb 12	10:00 am	WORSHIP - EPIPHANY VI	(Tell John what you see and hear)
Feb 19	10:00 am	WORSHIP- EPIPHANY VII	(Woman weeps at Jesus' feet)
Feb 26	10:00 am	WORSHIP - TRANSFIGURATION	
Mar 01	7:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY	(The Challenge of Following)
Mar 05	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 1	(Good Samaritan)
Mar 12	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 2	(Tower in Siloam)
	11:00 am	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Mar 19	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 3	(Sheep, Coin, Prodigal Son)
Mar 26	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 3	(Rich Man and Lazarus)
Apr 02	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 4	(Zacchaeus)

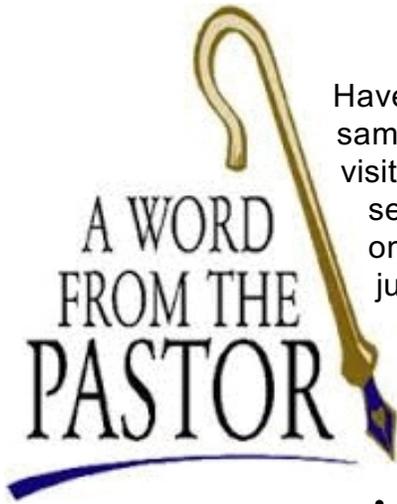
2016 Zion Council

Nick Beck (Chair) Wayne McCracken (Vice Chair)

Mickford Durgana Ginette McCracken Alethia McIntosh Ed Strath

Non-Council Positions

Ingrid Beck (Treasurer) Brian Cartwright (Recording Secretary)



Have you ever felt like you were wandering in circles? Like you do the same things over and over again – laundry, groceries, emails. You visit the same spots – kid's school, gym, work, church. Certain seasons of life can feel like a holding pattern in more ways than one. Spiritually, physically and emotionally there are times when we just don't seem to be getting anywhere.

The beginning of the year and all the buzz about goals and resolutions can cause us to ask questions like:

- ❖ Is there a difference between perspiration and inspiration?
- ❖ Could I be missing something important God has called me to do?
- ❖ Does the mundane routine of my life have great value or is there something more?

The people of Israel found themselves in a 40-year-long holding pattern after they grumbled and disobeyed God. During this time they ate the same food, wore the same clothes, and circled the same wilderness. God provided for them, taught them lessons and carried out some consequences for their attitudes and behaviours during this time.

The story of the Israelites in the wilderness is the sort of Old Testament event that was never forgotten. The Psalms, Prophets, Gospels, and several New Testament letters make reference to the lessons learned from the wilderness wanderings. Later God fulfilled every promise he made to his people in giving them victory in the land of promise. They defeated their enemies in Canaan and were once again able to cultivate the soil, make new clothes and live in more permanent dwellings. The wilderness wasn't forever, but it probably felt that way for the two million people moving through the desert with nothing but manna to eat and dreams of a future home.

When we seem to be in a wilderness season, it isn't always because of complaining or bad choices. There is much we can learn from the wilderness. "But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer."

This is a reminder that the wilderness is often a place of preparation. The Israelites took a census and got organized during their time in the wilderness. John the Baptist was a voice crying out from the wilderness. Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. Once Christ began healing and teaching, people followed him everywhere, but he often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

When we feel stuck in routine, like the landscape never seems to change, we can be proactive in prayer during our own wilderness seasons. During the beginning of 2017:

- ❖ If we feel unsatisfied or unsure of our purpose, we should withdraw and pray.
- ❖ If we are weary and tired but uninspired, then we should withdraw and pray.
- ❖ If we know God has big things ahead for us, then we should withdraw and pray so we can be prepared for what lies ahead.

So when can you withdraw today? Can you steal away for an hour, half an hour or even 10 minutes and get in God's presence? Pour out your heart to him, ask him for clarity and make a list of any nudges toward action you sense while in his presence.

Jesus has things for us to learn in the wilderness, but we need to follow his example to withdraw and pray so we'll be prepared for all God has in store!

OLIVE BRANCH NEWS
(Gleaned from Facebook)

Today is World Cancer Day. Current estimates in Tanzania indicate that every year 7304 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4216 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the most frequent cancer among women in Tanzania and the most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

At The Olive Branch for Children we are committed to providing the vulnerable women within the areas we serve with the health education and support they need for early diagnosis and early connection to care.

We hope to continue to dedicate more resources to non-communicable diseases over the next 2 years.

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2017 marks the final year of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty[158].

The Olive Branch for Children is dedicated to alleviating poverty through community-based and community-driven programming. Our programs focus on capacity building and empowerment, approaching development in a holistic, multi-dimensional and interconnected manner.

Positive change starts at the grassroots level.

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What is the OKOA Ambulance Project?
Here is a little more information for all of you.

D-Lab is an MIT program that designs and disseminates technologies to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals around the world. In addition to research, D-Lab offers over 20 courses to MIT students that allow students to use their technical education and apply it to tackle global issues.

The project first started through the D-Lab: Design course in Feb 2016 where Sade Nabahe, Emily Young and three other MIT students partnered with The Olive Branch for Children to create the first OKOA prototype. Sade and Emily continued the project after the class ended and recruited the two other members of the OKOA team to design the second prototype of the Ambulance.



Awesome work OKOA Ambulance team! Everyone at The Olive Branch is super proud of your work and can't wait to see where the project goes in the future.



Okoa Ambulance is a motorcycle attachment meant to provide patient transport to rural Tanzanian villages that do not have easy access to existing medical care.

1. The ambulance is covered by a steel frame and a fitted tarp that provides protection from the sun and the elements.
2. Two seats allow for passengers to sit alongside the patient, providing support and immediate medical care on the way to the hospital.
3. A removable stretcher attaches to the inside of the ambulance. Two separate positions allow for increased comfort of the patient.
4. The ambulance has dual-shock suspension on both wheels to offer a smooth ride with minimal discomfort to the patient.
5. A dynamic attachment mechanism allows the ambulance to attach onto the back of any motorcycle. This makes the ambulance accessible to anyone that owns a motorcycle.