

12 Pentecost  
Leadership Letter for August 15, 2021

Dear Zion Family,

The Rev. Janet Hoover opened last Sunday's service with these words: "Wherever we are, whether at Zion, on Zoom, on YouTube, at home, or on vacation, we are connected by the Holy Spirit. I am so glad that we have continued to be connected Sunday after Sunday after Sunday. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, twenty-eight people worshiped in-person at Zion while over fifteen people worshiped remotely.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF AUGUST

AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>—The Rev. Janet Hoover will lead worship at Zion.

AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup> —Deacon Patsy Glista will preside at Zion.

These services will also be offered via Zoom, live streamed on Zion's YouTube Channel, on our Facebook page, and in the written Service of the Word that is included in this document.

To join on these two Sundays via Zoom, use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2INb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>, Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#. If you are joining us on Zoom, please be sure you are on mute and that your video is turned off from 10 AM when the service commences until it ends and the "Joyful Chaos" begins. To join the service by Livestream on our YouTube channel, you can do so by visiting our page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbCe2z7-bIPvxp621A>

AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>—Pastor Anita Mohr will preside at Our Saviour Lutheran Church where Zion's congregants are invited to join in person. The Zoom link and a Worship Plan will be provided.

**ALL WHO ENTER ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK.** Because the number of cases of COVID-19 has risen dramatically in Oneida County and the CDC recommended that unvaccinated as well as vaccinated people wear masks in indoor public places, Council voted on Monday evening to reverse their previous decision (7/12/21) to allow fully vaccinated people to go without a face covering. Council will revisit this topic once the number of COVID-19 cases in Oneida County starts to decrease again. In his letter that we received on Monday, Bishop John Macholz wrote, "*For the sake of all, it's a simple task to wear a mask. It saves lives. It cuts down on transmission. It makes a statement that others are important and the call to compassion can be lived out simply and gracefully.*" While the weather is still hot, we will open the windows and doors and turn on the fans early on Sunday morning to cool off the sanctuary.

OTHER COUNCIL NOTES

- Council voted to establish a Technology Committee. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Mark Thompson at [mdthompsonphd@gmail.com](mailto:mdthompsonphd@gmail.com) or Sara at (315) 732-4110.
- If you have a child who is ready for First Communion, please notify Sara. Pastor Anita loves "doing" First Communion. It all can be quite flexible to accommodate the special needs of each family.
- Look for more information about a wrap-up of VBS—an outside event with more water play and another packet of activities to do at home.
- We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with Christian Education and partnering with Our Saviour to get ready for the new school year. Please contact Matt LaFave at (315) 351-9206.
- The Transportation Ministry is looking for volunteers who will create a plan to utilize Uber or Lyft to meet the needs of all who are wanting a way to get to church. Please contact Dan Rodahan at [rodahan2@yahoo.com](mailto:rodahan2@yahoo.com).
- September 12<sup>th</sup> is "**God's work. Our hands.**" Sunday and Zion will be helping to support the Morrow Warming Center in Utica. Please see the flyer included at the end of this document.

## ONE MORE THING TO SHARE

King of Kings Lutheran Church in Liverpool is hosting a suicide prevention workshop for adults. This is in response to the expressed need in the community to address emotional/spiritual needs coming out of the pandemic, specifically related to the rise in the suicide rate. "The Soul Shop Suicide Prevention Workshop for Leaders" will be lead by trained Soul Shopleaders on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4. See the flyer found at the end of this document for more details.

At the end of Pastor Janet's sermon, she asked, "Do you feel discouraged? Anxious? Worn out? Let Paul's words infuse you with new energy."—*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

May you all be infused with new energy,  
Laurel McCurdy, church council co-president

### *Community Bulletin Board:*

King of Kings is hosting a suicide prevention workshop for adults. This is in response to expressed need in the community to address emotional/spiritual needs coming out of the pandemic, specifically related to the rise in the suicide rate.

The workshop, entitled, "Soul Shop Suicide Prevention Workshop for Leaders" will be led by trained Soul Shopleaders on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4.

"This is a one-day workshop designed to equip faith community leaders to minister to those impacted by suicide. This includes the creation of worship resource, training congregation members in suicide awareness and basic conversation skills, and the how to extend the invitation to those who have been suicidal in the past to share their stories. This workshop engages the question of how to cultivate a soul-safe culture within your congregation."  
(From the Soul Shop Movement website)

The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. We will follow CDC and King of Kings COVID protocols for this event. The workshop is limited to 50 participants.

The link to register is:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/161537808935>

For more information about Soul Shop, you can visit their website at:

<https://www.soulshopmovement.org/>

If you have any questions or have any problems with the registration link, please contact Deacon Nancy Wagner at [koklayministries@gmail.com](mailto:koklayministries@gmail.com).

### **Special Note of Gratitude:**

*Thank you so much for all of the memories of Barb Reinshagen! I was sure to incorporate them into the graveside service for Barb. Please thank all of the members of Zion who shared them so generously. The family was really touched this morning that the members of Zion cared enough to send their memories of Barb. It was a hard day for them, but this made it a little bit easier. -Pr. Katie Yahns*

Zion Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, NY  
12 Pentecost



August 15, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Most Like an Arch*, by Michael Scott –Marcus Corasanti

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. Reconciling God,

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *Morning Has Broken* vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #556 –Marcus Corasanti

**Vs. 1** Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

**Vs. 3** Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, raise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:7-11

**Second Reading:** Galatians 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



**Gospel:** Luke 12: 22-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** *Rejoice and Be Glad* -Pastor Janet Hoover

Each morning as I turn on the computer I say a prayer, for it seems as if each day a new disaster is reported: Delta has hospitals down to last ICU beds. Tropical storm begins to form in Caribbean. Wildfires sweep across western states. Taliban seize more Afghan territories. So many problems accompany our morning coffee. And when we add to this mix our own personal troubles and worries: failing health, family crises, home repairs, car repairs, job demands, broken relationships, it all seems too much to bear. And yet Paul says every day, no matter what, we should sing, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart"!!! It's hard, isn't it? That's why I need Philippians. It would have been easy for the church in Philippi to focus on all that was troubling. They were a tiny minority in a sea of unbelievers. They were persecuted, some ostracized from their families, some facing economic consequences for their faith, all of them knowing that arrest and even death were a very strong possibility. And the one they counted on to lead them—Paul—the one they trusted and on whom they depended, was imprisoned in Rome. Where was God? If the risen Christ was all-powerful, how could this happen? In their discouragement and anxiety, Paul's words to them shine forth with a radiance undiminished by circumstances. In this remarkable letter written from a prison cell, a rainbow of joy and hope and promise arches through our doubts and gloom. Rejoice, Paul says. Rejoice all the time no matter what happens. And I want to say...are you serious? Rejoice when my credit card statement is larger than my bank account? Rejoice when the doctor says we need to run more tests? Rejoice when the thing I feared the most comes to pass? But Paul is persistent in his joy. Surprisingly persistent, for Paul is no stranger to suffering and struggle. He has been beaten, jailed, laughed at for his faith. He has been rejected time and time again. Yet out of this darkness he writes words bright with assurance and thanksgiving. Don't you see, Paul pleads. Don't you get it. Our joy comes in the midst of our hard times because, even there, God's love and grace is at work to sustain and encourage. Celebrate and sing. Let your praise shape your prayers and, before you know it, God's love will work its way into the core of your being and the frayed edges of your life will be mended and you will be whole and alive with joy. As Karl Barth writes: *The joy that Paul describes is a defiant nevertheless, which draws strength from laying one's deepest concerns before God with confidence in God's goodness.* This joy takes root even in darkness and blossoms with hope and courage and thanksgiving. Happiness and pleasure require favorable conditions—good health, job security, united happy families, vacations, money in the bank, lots of toys or books or clothes. But only one condition is required for joy—the presence of God. That's all we need. Joy happens when our hearts and minds are open to that reality. This means that we can feel joy even during painful circumstances or a troubled economy, in an intensive care waiting room or the loneliness of an empty house. Even when war rages all around us. Life may be painful and uncertain. We may know doubt and fear. But we can rejoice and be glad. Etty Hillsum, a Christian of Jewish parentage, was 29 when the Nazis invaded Holland, and she was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. Shortly before her arrest, she wrote to a friend: *The jasmine behind my house has been completely destroyed by rain and the jackboots of the Nazis. Nevertheless, somewhere inside of me the jasmine continues to blossom profusely, releasing within me a sweet smell that no one can take away.* Before her train pulled into Auschwitz, she flung from the train window a postcard that was later discovered by a farmer. On it she had scribbled: *I enter the camp singing.* She knew what lay ahead, but her resistant, joyful spirit refused to let evil win. Rejoice and be glad. Sometimes joy comes when we get the job or the lost is found or the tumor is benign. But joy is also ours when the tumor is not benign, when the lost stays lost, when the promotion goes to someone else. Joy comes when we lose what we most desired and discover what we most need. That's how joy comes to us—it gets in between the splinters of our broken heart. We can't create joy or command ourselves to feel joy. There is no computer program for joy we can plug in when we need it or a joy app on our phone, but we can live in such a way that joy has the key to our heart. Paul tells us what that way is. Fill your minds with things that are authentic and gracious, the best not the worst, things to praise, not things to complain about. We can focus on what's wrong with our life and blame God, or we can consider what is right and give God the glory. We can spend our time criticizing and judging others who are different from us, or we can marvel at the diversity of human beings. We will fill ourselves with something. It can be the junk food of scandal and resentment and bitterness, but if that is our choice, our spirits will become malnourished, fed with food that stunts and gradually poisons our system. Or we can fill ourselves with the food of compassion and acceptance and grace which nourishes and heals and helps us grow more and more into the image of Christ. The decision to set our minds on

God's goodness is a decision we make every day—a conscious refusal to let suffering and sin have the last word, a deliberate turning of our attitude to what is good and true. Joy is not found in grand moments of perfect bliss, but in the bite-sized pieces of life—a cup of coffee silently savored, a birdsong in the quiet hours of dawn, the gentle touch of a loved one's hand. We can think on what we don't have, or we can concentrate on the fact that God is with us. We can choose to worry less and dream more, to complain less and laugh more. And as we rejoice in the abundance of gifts with which God surrounds us, we will find the strength to face that which is difficult and painful in life. As I was preparing this sermon, my mind kept circling around to November and the holiday we call Thanksgiving. Not so much the turkey and parades and football games, but the heart of the holiday...gratitude for what we have. Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated as a national holiday for the first decades of our life as a nation. It didn't become an annual event until a most persistent lady—Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of a woman's magazine and author of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*—began a campaign to set aside a day for National Thanksgiving in 1846. It took 17 years for her dream to be realized, but in 1863 the President of the United States proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be set aside for giving thanks. In the darkness of the Civil War—a war in which brothers found themselves fighting on opposite sides, when the very existence of our nation hung in the balance, when death and destruction were everyday events, Abraham Lincoln set aside a day for thanksgiving and praise. Listen to his words:...*I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent God who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to God for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to God's tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore God to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.*" We can rejoice and be glad. Here. Now. Even in the spinning chaos of Delta virus and climate change, political turmoil, and uncertainty. Paul's mindset of joy has been put into a wonderful song by John Bucchino...sung by Art Garfunkel. I hope you will all go home and listen to it on YouTube—*Grateful*, recorded by Art Garfunkel. *There may be times when I lose the light and let my spirits sink, but I can't stay depressed when I remember how I'm blessed. In a city full of strangers, I've got a family of friends. No matter what rocks and brambles fill the way, I know that they will stay till the end. I feel a hand holding my hand. It's not a hand you can see. But on the road to the promised land, this hand will shepherd me. Through delight and despair, holding tight and always there. In a world that can bring pain, I will still take each chance, for I believe that whatever the terrain our feet can learn to dance. Whatever stone life may sling, we can moan, or we can sing. Grateful, grateful, truly grateful.* We can be truly grateful. We can rejoice and be glad. Life isn't always easy. We may find ourselves walking down paths we don't want to walk. We will know disappointment and heartache. We will know grief and despair. Nevertheless, these things are as nothing when compared to the vast expanse of God's love. Much is wrong with the world. We often struggle just to make it through the day. Nevertheless, we can have faith. Nevertheless, we can praise God. Nevertheless, we can give thanks. Nevertheless, rejoice in the Lord always. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers. For God is good and greatly to be praised. Rejoice and give thanks.

#### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*ANTHEM: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, by Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. by Richard Kingsmore —Marcus Corasanti*

## Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You have revealed your love for people overlooked and cast aside, sending your son to be born among the humble and poor. Send your church to proclaim good news to those who feel abandoned, despised, or rejected and make our congregations places of genuine welcome and hospitality. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

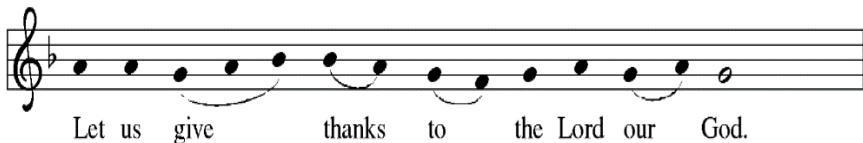
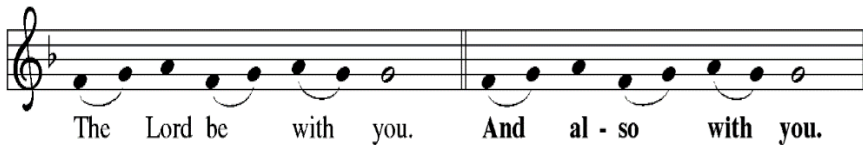
We remember your promise to our ancestors and look to you for justice. Expose pride, greed, and exploitation wherever it is found and raise up humble leaders who act on behalf of those who are poor, oppressed, or in other need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives in our hearts and makes us heirs of salvation. Rescue us from shame and dishonor. Lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and have mercy on those who turn to you for help. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, Wesley Williams, Rosemary, comfort for the family and friends of Barb Reinshagen, comfort for the family and friends of Doris Berry, Carole, Gail, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Claudia & Fran, Ed and family, prayers for Michael Gilleece and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... and join in their unending hymn.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION,

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

### Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

### Sending Song *Faith of Our Fathers vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #812 -Marcus Corasanti*

**Vs. 1** Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word. Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

**Vs. 3** Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife; proclaim thee too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life. Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Autumn*, by Derek Kieran -Marcus Corasanti

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



Sept. 12  
2021

*This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are at Zion Lutheran Church— one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.*

⇒ **This God’s Work Our Hands Sunday, Zion will be helping to support the Morrow Warming Center in Utica. Morrow is working with the homeless- feeding them, offering help with places to sleep, and providing work opportunities such as cleaning streets and gardening.**

**Warming Center Immediate needs:** Milk, coffee, sugar, cereal, snacks, mayonnaise, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets, brown paper lunch bags, syrup, plastic ware, napkins, paper towels, and we will always take meals or cookies, fresh fruit, (softer is better because of teeth) and we could use pillowcases.

---

**\*\*\*You can drop off items at Zion in the downstairs coat room from now until September 12th, Monday-Thursday between the hours of 9:30-1:30 or during a church service. Thank you!\*\*\***

---