

16 Pentecost
Leadership Letter for September 12, 2021

Dear Zion Family,

At Our Saviour Lutheran Church on the Sunday before Labor Day, we were gathered together as the people of God to sing, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!" According to Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan, this hymn was written in 1680 by Joachim Neander while he was walking in the spot that he loved—in the beautiful Dussel River valley. After he died of tuberculosis, the area was named for him—Neander Valley. (The old German word for "valley" was "tal" or "thal" and, in 1856, miners discovered caves there containing human bones and fossils that would prove Darwin's theory of evolution. The Neanderthal were an extinct group of fully human people of great strength.) For 341 years, people have gained strength from Joachim Neander's hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" to endure the aftermath of wars, 9/11, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, pandemics, the loss of loved ones, and...

And now, some information about a new hymn that will be sung for years to come on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. At Zion on this coming Sunday, we will be celebrating the blessing of many necessary items that will help support the Morrow Warming Center in Utica. There were more than 120 entries in the ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday hymn contest in 2019. The winning hymn, written by Wayne Wold, chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, MD, and director of music ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD, expresses how the people of our church live in service for the life of the world. Here are the words of the first verse that can be sung to the tune ELW #731, "Earth and All Stars!" "God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shel't'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel." We will look forward to singing this new hymn next year.

Where will we worship in September and October?

On "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 12th, we will worship at Zion. On the following Sunday, September 19th, we are invited to worship at Our Saviour. Then, for the next six Sundays, we will meet in Zion's sanctuary for worship at 10 AM.

To join Zion's Sunday services at 10:00 AM via Zoom, use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>,

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-bIPvxp62IA>

What is on the calendar at Zion?

September 11th --Red Cross Blood Drive at Zion--Zion will again host a Red Cross Blood Drive between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. As there is currently a real need for blood donations, we encourage everyone to seriously consider donating at this drive. Your donation can help someone greatly in need. We encourage those interested to schedule a donation appointment: The sponsor code to schedule an appointment is ZionLutheran and the direct link to schedule an appointment is <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ZionLutheran>. Please wear a face covering when you come for your donation appointment.

September 12th—Council Meeting at 6:30 on Zoom.

What four committees need volunteers?

We are looking for volunteers to help with the work of four committees. Please consider sharing your time and talents to carry out the work on these issues important to the life of our church. The committees and contact persons are:

- A newly-formed Technology Committee - Mark Thompson, mdthompsonphd@gmail.com
- The Christian Education Committee - Matt LaFave
mattswoodcrafts@gmail.com
- The Transportation Committee - Dan Rodahan, rodahan2@yahoo.com
- The Disabilities Ministry - Dan Rodahan, rodahan2@yahoo.com

Volunteers needed for Your Neighbors kitchen clean-up: The Your Neighbors board has decided to resume their program, focusing on the provision of meals. The program will again be utilizing the kitchen at Zion and plans to start-up again in September. The kitchen needs some clean-up before the operation can get underway!!! If you would like to help with the clean-up, we'll be in the kitchen on Wednesday, September 15th, 1:30-4:30. Please contact Sara Silva or Patsy Glista. *Thank you!*

May the words and tunes of last Sunday's HYMN OF THE DAY, "Canticle of the Turning" and the SENDING SONG, "God of Grace and God of Glory" give you strength and comfort this week also,

Laurel McCurdy, council co-president

We can't thank you enough for the many donations that came pouring in for The Warming Center for "God's Work. Our Hands." Thank you to Kim Marscher for coming up with this idea.

We asked, and you certainly delivered! Many boxes of cereal and food items were donated, laundry soap, blankets, paper products, and much more...

Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
16 Pentecost



September 12, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *I Know That My Redeemer Lives, Arioso, G. F. Handel*

-Bob Peters

BLESSING "God's Work. Our Hands."

O God of comfort and compassion, we give thanks that we live, bound together with all your children. We give thanks that you entrust us with the work of caring for one another. Your love is offered through us...our words and our hands. And so, this morning we especially remember our brothers and sisters served through the Morrow Warming Center. Bless those whose hands have offered these gifts and bless those whose hands will receive them. And bless those who work to make this ministry possible. Help us to remember that all we do, all we say, all we offer is an extension of the love we have received through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter:

Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Beautiful Savior vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #838* -Bob Peters

Vs. 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Vs. 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

Sermon: -Pastor Janet Hoover

Ever since they laid down their fishing gear, ever since they hugged their families good-bye, ever since they set aside everything for which they had been trained to follow this man from Galilee, the disciples have been on an incredible roller coaster ride of faith and doubt, promise and disappointment, understanding and confusion. They have seen lepers cleansed, storms stilled, demons destroyed. They have heard confusing and disturbing messages—love your enemy, don't store up treasures on earth. They have listened to puzzling parables and comforting prayers. Now in one of the most dramatic scenes in the gospel, Jesus pushes the disciples to a deeper level of understanding. Caesarea Philippi—a Roman city in the far northern reaches of Israel, is also a pagan worship site where sacrifices to the Roman god Pan were commonly performed to aid armies in battle. Here, with the huge columns and carved marble faces of this pagan temple looming behind them, here in the heart of worldly power and military might, Jesus asks two questions. First—who do people say that I am? That one is fairly easy. Well, they respond, most believe you are some sort of recycled prophet—or maybe John the Baptist. Their responses are on the right track, but none of them captures the fullness and depth of his true identity. And so Jesus asks a second question: Who do you say that I am? I imagine that 11 disciples were relieved when Peter stepped forward with an answer: You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus says to Peter: A+ Good answer. To call Jesus Messiah is to know that Jesus is the savior, the one who rescues a world in peril. It is to make the astounding claim that Jesus is the fulfillment of the deep hope that God would be among us with peace, wisdom, and righteousness. To call Jesus the son of the living God is to say that Jesus shares the very nature of God who is the source of all life, the one who summons the winds and scatters light across the sky, who knows the falling of a sparrow and counts the hairs of human heads. The living God, not one of the lifeless, spiritless gods whose followers, even as Peter speaks, are streaming into the doors of the temple behind them. What a marvelous affirmation of faith. This may be Peter's finest moment, but the story doesn't stop there. Peter has announced the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Then he is confronted with the other half of the Gospel truth—the messianic road leads to a cross. And with this, Peter who only moments before was the solid rock on which the church would be built, suddenly crumbles and becomes a stumbling block. As Tom Long says:

Peter is like a man who has just been named campaign manager of a promising presidential candidate, who hears the candidate proclaim that he can accomplish his goals only by being assassinated. Humanly speaking, the concept of a suffering, dying Messiah is absurd. The Messiah is supposed to save and liberate, not be killed. But Jesus knows that God's way is a total love which offers everything, and he will not be swayed by Peter. He lays before Peter a final question: There are two ways. The way of force or the way of suffering, self-giving love. Which will you choose? Which will you choose? Who wants to be a disciple? As we seek to follow Jesus, he turns to us from time to time and says: Surprise—it's time for a pop quiz! How am I being described today? Well, that's easy—some call you a great teacher, others a social reformer, a mystic, a streetwise revolutionary, a champion of the poor, a friend to talk to, founder of a religion...OK, OK, Jesus says. Now for round 2. Who do you say that I am? I hardly know where to begin, for as I think about Jesus my mind is filled with images. Jesus sitting on a rock with a child on his lap—laughing and calling all to come closer. Jesus with an intense look, the muscles of his face taut, his hand grasping a man's disfigured hand, then smiling as the man starts to flex his fingers, make a fist, open his fingers again. There he is riding on a donkey. There on the cross arms outstretched as if to embrace the world. There's the baby cradled in a manger and the adolescent teaching the teachers. There's the brilliant debater fast with his words and fast on his feet, wrapping the scribes and the Pharisees in a web of their own half-witted arguments. There's Jesus in deep thought, chin in hand listening and then speaking quietly: Love God with everything you have, then love your neighbor as you love yourself. There he is touching the wounded and broken, wiping the disciples' feet, breaking bread and pouring wine. There he kneels hands clasped in prayer. Jesus—looking, listening, touching, comforting, challenging, inviting. Who do you say that Jesus is? Each of us must wrestle with that question for ourselves. And wrestle with it we must, for it is not a matter of winning the jackpot with a correct answer. How we answer this question will lead us to the final question: Will you pick up a cross and follow me? A movie that made a great difference in my own way of answering these questions was *The Mission*. Based on historical events from the 1700s, the movie tells the story of Jesuit missionaries attempting to reach South American Indians with the gospel. One man, Father Gabriel, has some success in his approach as he listens to, learns from, and comes to love the people. At one point in the story, his path crosses that of Mendoza—a mercenary slave trader, a man whose violent past is transformed by Father Gabriel. Through all of this, the powers of the institutional church and various countries are engaged

in a struggle for domination of the people and the land. And an official from the church arrives to decide the fate of the mission. At stake is the work of the kingdom versus the profits of slave trading. To keep peace, and to protect the church from trouble, the official orders the mission closed, an act which means that the South American Christians residing there will become slaves. Now, Father Gabriel and Mendoza face decisions of their own. Should they leave? Should they stay with the Indians? Should they fight? Each man has to ask himself: Who is Jesus Christ? What does it mean to follow him to the cross? One man chooses to fight to save the lives of others—and dies in the process. The other chooses to stay with the people, leading them in worship even as the slave traders and soldiers begin their attack—and he dies, as well. The movie ends with the church official writing to the Pope: *Your priests are dead and I am left alive. But in truth it is I who am dead and they who live.* The music plays. The credits roll. And then as the words fade from the screen, we again see the church official sitting at his desk. He lifts his eyes and looks right into ours as if to say: And you.

What will you choose? I hope this passage from Mark will go with you this week. I hope that you struggle to answer Jesus' questions. Remember, to take up the cross is not just to suffer and have problems. Rather, it is to willingly and joyfully go into places of hate and anger and pain with the healing embrace of love. It is to place the needs and hurts of others above our own need for comfort and security. Taking up a cross may mean physical suffering and death, but, for most of us, it involves the daily choice to care for others. It may mean ending a quarrel with words of forgiveness, loving the obnoxious neighbor, spending time with the misfit. It may mean doing things which you find difficult—speaking of your faith to others, touching the wounded, sharing your time, your energy, your material goods. Again from Tom Long: *Suffering on behalf of others may appear to be pouring one's life down the bottomless drain of human need, but it is what it means to save one's life. A life that is spent caring for children in need, hammering nails in houses for those without shelter, sharing bread with the hungry, visiting those in prison may seem like a wasted life in the economy of a self-centered age, but in the storehouse of heaven it is a lavish treasure.* Who do you say that he is? Prayerfully think about your answer. And then be ready to go where he leads. It may sometimes be a path you would prefer not to walk, but don't be afraid, for Christ walks with you—comforting and encouraging. And he will show you the way one step at a time. Come, he says...follow me.

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: Largo from Xerxes, Handel -Bob Peters

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

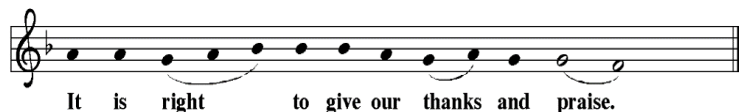
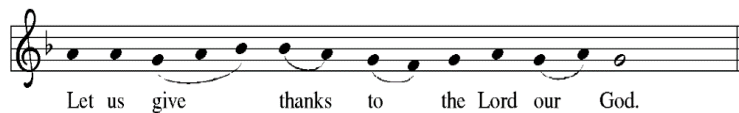
Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other recent disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, 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, Chuck Carlson, comfort for Fran King, Claudia, Shirley, Steve, healing for Joyce, Carole, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Jeanette, David, Ed and family, comfort for the family of Michael Gillece, Theresa, and all of the teachers, parents, and students who went back to school this past week, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

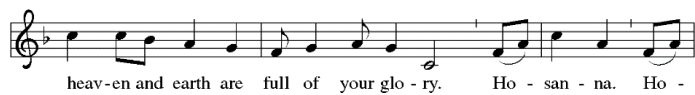
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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,

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *Children of the Heavenly Father, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #781 -Bob Peters*

Vs. 1 Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

Vs. 4 Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Trumpet Voluntary, John Stanley -Bob Peters*

Thank you for choosing to be with Zion Lutheran Church.

Attention women of Zion! Please see the enclosed WELCA flyer at the end of this week's mailing. If you'd like to carpool for the event, please call Patsy!

The Women of the Evangelical Church in America (WELCA) is sponsoring a Pack the Freezers event to restock the Your Neighbors freezers housed at Zion. Your Neighbors is planning to restart meal delivery in early October and needs lots of meal trays filled. Soups and cookies are also needed. **Women and Men of Zion** can help by – Picking up trays, labels, lids and instruction sheets at Zion to prepare and assemble a meal (or meals) at home ahead of time. GLOVES are also available at church – please take a couple pairs to facilitate your meal preparation and help Your Neighbors maintain safe meals. Prepared frozen meals can be dropped off at Zion during the week of Sept. 27-Sept. 30 during office hours, 9:30am – 1:30pm or on **Saturday, Oct. 2nd from 10-12.**

• Preparing a dish for meals to be assembled Sunday, Oct. 3 shortly after worship. **Please contact Patsy or the church office if you're bringing a dish** so the trays have the correct foods (protein, starch, vegetable, or individual desserts that can be distributed with the meals to make balanced meals. Soups are also needed – containers available at church.

• Helping to pack after worship on Sunday, Oct. 3 – we are looking for 4-5 people to help with this. There will be a sign-up sheet at church or call Patsy Glista if you would like to help pack. Gloves and face masks will be worn and packing will be done in the Fellowship Hall so that we can maintain social distancing, etc.

QUESTIONS??

Please see Patsy Glista, Kim Marscher, Fran Holzberger, or Kim Ritchie, or call Patsy 315-796-2985.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Fall Regional Event in Oswego, NY on October 2, 2021

Theme: Love is... Welcoming the Stranger

10:30- 2:30 at Grace Lutheran Church, Oswego, NY

Enjoy a full day of fellowship with other women as we discuss the history and current issue of welcoming the stranger to our churches and communities.

Our day will begin with a tour of the Safe Haven Museum in Oswego and the rest of the day will include hearing the Word, devotions, discussions and lunch. A full schedule of the day and directions to the museum and Grace Lutheran Church will be given when you register. Cost covers lunch and museum entrance fee.

Oswego, NY was the only refugee shelter in the United States during World War II. Nearly 1000 men, women and children were housed at Fort Ontario in Oswego, NY. Hear the story of the refugees' voyage to the US, to life at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refuge Shelter and ultimately to the fate of the refugees when the shelter was closed. Then, we learn of programs that now deal with this issue.



REGISTER BY September 24, 2021:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

COST - \$10.00 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

May be paid on that day.

SEND TO SUE FOX AT 315-342-3175 OR 245sfox@gmail.com. More information to

follow upon registration.