

19 Pentecost  
Leadership Letter for the Week of Sept. 27th-Oct. 3rd

Dear Zion Family,

This past Sunday we were blessed to have Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth back in the pulpit to lead our service. Rev. Jen preached on the second reading from James (5:13-20), in which “he urges us to pray in every situation, in good times and in bad, in joy and suffering, intercessory prayer for those suffering, and praise and singing with those who are full of joy. Second, he urges people to pray for one another;...James writes, ‘Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.’ We can note that, for James, prayer is not just private and personal. Prayer is a social activity and public-it happens in community...When we people in the church pray for one another, even for the individual sickness, or sin sickness, the whole community is healed.” James reminds us that prayer is powerful and effective. Rev. Jen shared her experience of the power of the prayers she offers. “When I say prayer is effective and powerful, I generally mean the way I observe it working most obviously to me-that it changes me. Through prayer, I have come to care more about others and then take action to care for them.” Let us be prayerful this week and every week, as it can yield benefits both for those we pray for as well as ourselves.

Sunday Worship:

Our Sunday service will continue to be offered in several ways. We offer in-person worship at Zion for the entire month of October. If you plan to **attend by Zoom**, use the following: <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-blPvxp62lA>

**The Service of the Word** version is found later in this newsletter.

**\*\*Please note, the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> service will start at 11:00 AM** due to the running of the Boilermaker, which will make parking and driving in the area of our church difficult around 10:00 AM.\*\*

The Call Process to Find Zion’s Next Pastor:

Our call committee, led by chairperson Jack Henke, has been working diligently over the past 17 months to help identify the right person to lead Zion in fulfilling our mission. The committee recently interviewed a third candidate whose candidacy was forwarded by the Synod, recommending this person for review by the church council. The council will now begin the process of vetting the candidate. If/when the council believes this candidate is the right person for Zion, they will be introduced to the congregation with a meet and greet social opportunity and by presiding at a Sunday worship service. Please continue to offer your prayers for all involved in this important process.

Your Neighbors:

Thanks to the efforts of several area churches, the Your Neighbors program already has nearly 500 meals in the freezers and only a couple referrals so far to restart. As a result, the meal coordinator has asked if Zion would hold off on our cook-in scheduled for this week and reschedule at a later date. Thank you to those folks who have already cooked and packaged meals/soups and put them in the freezer at church! If you have already prepared your dish at home, then yes, please drop it off at church and we will package after church this Sunday. If you haven't cooked yet, we ask that you wait- and as soon as we have a new date, we will let everyone know.

Thank you for your patience as we begin to get this program back up and running!

### Greeters and Ushers Needed for Sunday Service:

Given our offering of in-person worship for each of the Sundays in October, we have a need for volunteers to serve as ushers and greeters. Please sign-up in the Narthex or email Jeanne Gymburch (jgymburch@aol.com) or Barb Wilson ([B62950@aol.com](mailto:B62950@aol.com)) to volunteer.

### Zion Endowment Fund Annual Distribution for 2021

Information for the Endowment Fund can be found on the last page of the mailing.

There are angels living amongst us, and members of the Zion congregation to boot! No, not the kind with wings and playing harps, but individuals who selflessly and generously make the lives of those around them better, much better. This past week it was my privilege to hear about two such individuals who made a real and significant difference in the life of someone else because they were present, truly listened, joined with, and accompanied the other through a very difficult series of events - a safe place to stay for the night, a meal to eat, an opportunity to be heard—nothing earth shattering, but nonetheless a life raft in a turbulent sea. The outcome of these selfless acts made a world of difference for the person in turmoil. It was humbling to hear. I felt inspired, and so very grateful to know the people involved. Indeed, there are angels living amongst us!

Have a safe and healthy week ahead,  
Mark Thompson, church council co-president

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Our congregation mourns the passing of longtime member Francis “Fran” King, who entered the church triumphant on September 27, 2021. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to Claudia, daughters Jan and Denise, and the rest of the King family.

Fran joined our church when he married Claudia Zoekler in a candlelight ceremony at Old Zion on December 14, 1956. With that union, he became part of a family who had been a vital element in our congregation for over a century. He embraced that vitality and expanded on it during his 65 wondrous years with us. Fran served on the Church Council for many terms, was President of the former Lutheran Church Men, and coordinated that group’s activities, such as their Saturday morning breakfast programs. A master electrician, he chaired Zion’s building committee after we moved to French/Burrstone Roads, and donated his time and expertise to many a wiring project, such as the complex electrical connections needed to activate the balcony organ. He was an usher, a greeter, a strong supporter of congregational outreach, a Bible study regular, a chaperone for Youth Group functions when it was called the “Luther League,” a cook for the annual Easter Breakfast, a driver for Zion’s bus in the 1960s, as well as many additional benevolences for his beloved church.

We will miss him, miss him deeply. In future days, when we think of our friend Fran King and his life at Zion, the words of Matthew 25:23 will quickly come to mind: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

**Calling hours will be held at church this Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11a.m. -1 p.m., immediately followed by the funeral service. Per the family, masks will be required. We would like people to practice social distancing while at Zion to keep everyone safe.**

If you are unable to attend in person, we invite you to join the service on Zoom: **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408597518?pwd=am5QSFYyY2xydzY2dk1kWHUxaFlxZz09>. **Topic:** Funeral Service. **Time:** Oct 2, 2021, 1 PM. **Meeting ID:** 814 0859 7518. **Passcode:** 488597. **One tap mobile:** +16465588656,,81408597518#,,,,\*488597# US (NY), **Meeting ID:** 814 0859 7518 **Passcode:** 488597

Zion Lutheran Church

New Hartford, NY

19 Pentecost



October 3, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine* by Franz J. Haydn

-Kelli Watson

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:** *How Firm a Foundation, vs. 1 & 4* Hymn #796 -Kelli Watson

**Vs. 1** How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

**Vs. 4** "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

**Prayer of the Day**

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Genesis 2:18-24

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

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. Hal-le-lu-jah.

**Gospel:** Mark 10:1, 13-16

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

**Sermon:** *Forbid Them Not* -Pastor Janet Hoover

Do you ever feel as if, no matter how hard you work, you never quite get everything accomplished? Have you ever been frantically trying to meet a deadline, only to be frustrated by interruptions? Then you should be able to understand the anxiety which motivates the disciples in this passage. Jesus is on the road again, but this time there is a special urgency. He knows that his time is running out. In the short time left, he tries to prepare his disciples. He continues to heal the sick, and to teach those who gather around him what it means to follow him. The hours slip away—so much to accomplish and so little time. Surely, the disciples feel the strain and the tension. They want uninterrupted time with Jesus so they can make sense of what he is trying to tell them. They see the tiredness and stress in his face and long to protect him. And then, some from the crowd have the nerve to bring little children to him. It's no wonder the disciples react sharply. This was actually an unheard of and shocking thing to see. Even though children in Jesus' time were longed for as a means of assuring the future, even though they are seen as a gift from God and a strong affirmation of life, at the same time there is very little attention given to the children as individuals. They are expected to obey and learn and grow up as quickly and quietly as possible. A proverb from this time says that a man is destroyed by morning sleep, mid-day wine, and chattering with children. In their reaction to the presence of children, the disciples are not necessarily cruel or unfeeling, they are simply acting out the belief of their day—the belief that children are a waste of an adult's valuable time. But Jesus sees things differently. **Let the children come to me. Forbid them not. The kingdom I have been preaching belongs to them, too. Bring them to me.** And then, in front of everyone, he gathers the children in his arms, lays his hands upon them, and blesses them. Notice that Jesus doesn't say: Let those children who are well-behaved and quiet come to me. He doesn't say: After I take care of important matters, and if I have time, I'll see the children. He doesn't say let the little ones related to me by blood come closer. He doesn't say: Those of you who enjoy children take care of them and let the rest of us tend to business. He says: Let them come to me. Jesus' actions say to the children: I have time for you. You matter. I want to hear what you have to say, and I want you to hear me. This is no way for a respectable rabbi to behave, and this incident must have made a great impression on the people, for it is described in three of the gospels. Through his example and his words, he has charged us with a responsibility. And if we want to follow Jesus, we must take it seriously. So, how do we do that? How do we bring children to Jesus? Sometimes through teaching and coaching, but classrooms and organized activities are not the only way we bring people to Christ. Before the stories of God's people make sense to the children, they have to experience, to see for themselves, what it means to be God's people. They must trust others before they learn to trust God. They must know love. They must feel accepted and know that they belong. Children may not study their Bibles as diligently as desired, but they will study the lives of the adults they meet in the sanctuary and in the church parking lot, in the grocery store and at football games. They learn by watching you. How we demonstrate Christ's love wherever we are has a powerful influence on how the children will love others and God. We are called to be the people of God—together. There is no minimum—or maximum—age requirement to be a part of the family of faith. That is wonderful, but it isn't always easy for anybody. Children are not always angelic and well-behaved. At times, they are messy and noisy, they interrupt and don't sit still. And they distract us when we want to concentrate. But adults are not always angelic and well-behaved either. We are sometimes irritable and short-tempered, opinionated and sometimes a bit set in our ways. We are often task-oriented and have little time for simply enjoying life. There are problems and tensions when all ages join together. But it is that connection that enables the exciting opportunity to be the body of Christ, using the gifts of each person to enrich the lives of all. We come to God with individual gifts and talents, and each age also brings something the world needs. Children are bearers of love and hope and grace through: hugs, laughter and tears, small acts of kindness like sharing graham crackers and offering bunches of beautiful dandelions, spontaneous demonstrations of thankfulness and joy, directness and simplicity of faith. Youth are bearers of love and hope and grace through: provocative questions, dreams for the future and the energy and enthusiasm to carry them out, innovative and creative thinking, frankness and openness to new ideas, deep compassion for the hurts of others, and a faith which challenges and pushes us past complacency. Adults are bearers of love and hope and grace through: wisdom and insights which come from experience, knowledge and skills, strength of character, and a faith which has been hammered out in the fires of life. God's promise to our earliest ancestors in the faith was that God would be their God and that they would be God's people. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, that promise became a reality for all people. We are all children of God—holding hands with men and women, young people, and children in worship and praise. When I think of the church, the child of God in each of us no matter our age is called to be a disciple of Christ and helped to grow in faith. Where children and adults are involved throughout the church's life. I see a place where all of God's children—whatever the stage of life they are in—are able to take risks, try new things, teach a class, sing a solo, lead a committee, share their questions and doubts and insights, knowing that they will be supported and encouraged. I see a place where we can be who we are—where we can act our age, whether it be 7 or 47 or 107, without fear of rejection or criticism. I see a place where we can live together celebrating our differences and cherishing each other's gifts. I see a place where all people discover and claim over and over again the good news of God's abiding love. But remember—Christ's love is not just

for those of us gathered here, but for all children everywhere: the ones who don't nestle snug in their beds, the ones who sleep with hunger and fear. Those are our children, too. Jesus says: **Let the children come to me.** Jesus is calling us to embrace not just our own children or the children of Zion or those children we know, but all God's children. How are we doing? How are we caring for the children of humankind? I don't think I like the answer I come up with—sometimes we let them starve. Sometimes we let them live short lives in miserable poverty, sometimes they're abused and neglected by the very people who should love them the most. Love of God can't be separated from love of neighbor—and that includes the children. Those who can't fend for themselves, those who are powerless in the political decisions which shape their lives and their futures. Children need your help. Christ came that our hearts and the hearts of children everywhere might be filled with: love instead of hate, hope not despair, compassion instead of selfishness. Christ came to teach all creation how to love God and one another. You are being called to respond to that compassionate, merciful, loving, protecting, nurturing, sheltering, gathering grace of God. You are being called to serve a Savior who stopped on his way to the cross to reach out to the children. And, as you say here I am, Lord—tell me what to do, God will open doors of opportunity for you and for this congregation. Some of you will be empowered to work to stop the violence and poverty around us because you know that you can tell a society by looking at how its children die. Some of you will be inspired to lead us in the fight to end world hunger, because hungry children are bathed in the tears of God. Some of you will put on a mask when you enter a place where those too young to be vaccinated are present. Some of you will go to work tomorrow and work for new plans, new policies, because the people of God should be about protecting God's flock. Some of you will return to schools and classrooms to teach and counsel and listen. Some of us...all of us I hope...will keep the children in mind as we vote and speak out to our elected officials. And I hope that wherever we go we will work to provide a safe place for children to learn and grow and to know that God's desire for them is a nestling warmth and the embrace of love. In a poem some of you may know, Ina Hughes offers a prayer for the children: *Jesus says: let the children come to me. Children who put chocolate fingers everywhere, who like to be tickled, who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants, who sneak popsicles before supper, who erase holes in math workbooks, who never can find their shoes. And children who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who can't bounce down the street in a new pair of sneakers, who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead in, who never go to the circus, who live in an X-rated world. Forbid them not: Those children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money, who cover themselves with Band-aids and sing off key, who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink, and slurp their soup. And those who never get dessert, who have no safe blanket to drag behind them, who watch their parents watch them die, who can't find any bread to steal, who don't have rooms to clean up, whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser, whose monsters are real. Pray for children: who spend all their allowance before Tuesday, who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food, who like ghost stories, who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse out the tub, who get visits from the tooth fairy, who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool, who squirm in church and scream in the phone, whose tears we sometimes laugh at, and whose smiles can make us cry. And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime, who will eat anything, who have never seen a dentist, who aren't spoiled by anybody, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep, who live and move, but have no being. Pray for children who want to be carried, and those who must. For those we never give up on and those who don't get a second chance. For those we smother with attention, and those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it. So, pray for the children you treasure and for the children all over the world, for each child is a gift. Pray that the child in each of us would be freed to explore and dream and laugh and love. For we are all children of blessing, children of promise. And Jesus stopped his business. He took them in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.*

#### **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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling with Jesus Loves Me, by William Bradbury, arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram -Kelli Watson*

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

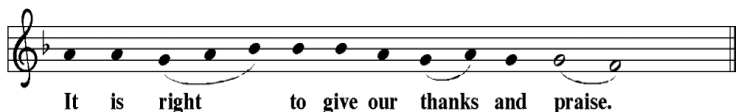
You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us including those not ready due to COVID related issues & in nursing homes, and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. 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, comfort for the family and friends of Fran King, comfort for the family and friends of John Kratzert, Shirley, healing for Joyce, Carole, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Jeanette, Ed and family, and Theresa, 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.**

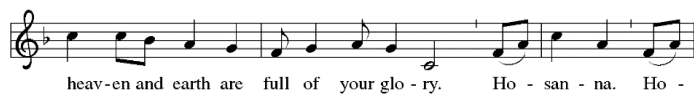
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## 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:** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #543 -Kelli Watson*

**Vs. 1** "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

**Vs. 3** "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

### Dismissal

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

**Postlude:** *Chorus of Praise, by Randolph Johnston -Kelli Watson*



## ZION ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION FOR 2021

Zion's Endowment Fund has \$16,160 available for distribution in 2021. One fourth of the total distribution will go to each of the following categories:

- (1) Community outreach programs
- (2) Special ministries of Zion
- (3) Missions of the ELCA
- (4) Zion Capital Projects

To be considered for a grant, submit a Zion Lutheran Church Grant Application Form describing your organization and what the funds will be used for to: Zion Lutheran Church, 630 French Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413 - Attn: Endowment Distribution. Or send via email to [office@zionluth.com](mailto:office@zionluth.com).

The Grant Application form is available from the church office. There is a link to the form in the Endowment Fund article on the church web site at: <http://www.zionlutheranny.org/Zions-Permanent-Funds>. Click on the blue bar (Click Here for Endowment Application) under the "How to Apply for a Distribution" paragraph.

Deadline for receipt of the form is November 1, 2021. All applications will be considered at the November 2021 Endowment Committee meeting. Recipients will be notified in writing and checks will be sent in late November/early December 2021.

### ZION ENDOWMENT FUND OVERVIEW

Zion's Endowment Fund was established in 1985 for the purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of Zion Lutheran Church apart from the general operations of the congregation. The Fund welcomes gifts from Zion and Utica community members. Gifts can consist of memorials, bequests in wills, charitable remainder and other trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignment of life insurance and transfer of property, such as cash, stocks, bonds, or real estate. To-date, most gifts have been from bequests in wills. Planned giving is one method of providing end of life gifting of one's wealth to the Zion Endowment Fund.

### YEARLY DISTRIBUTIONS

The Endowment Fund by-laws require that yearly distributions be made from the Fund. The distributions are divided among the following: one-quarter each to; community outreach, missions of the ELCA, special ministries of Zion Lutheran Church and Zion capital projects. The Endowment Fund Committee makes recommendations to the Church Council and Zion's congregation concerning the charitable distributions. Past recipients include; Community Food Bank, Your Neighbors, Family Nurturing Center, Canstruction, Lutheran Homes Foundation, Vanderkamp, KEYS Program, Foothills Rural Community Ministry and Center for Family Life and Recovery.

### HISTORY OF GIFTS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTIONS

In the 35 years of its existence, the Endowment Fund has received gifts and bequests of about \$200,000. Over this same period, distributions from the Fund now exceed \$280,000. The Endowment Fund expects to distribute approximately \$16,160 this year.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND ARE WELCOME

Contributions to the Zion Endowment Fund need not be just in the form of bequests in wills or trusts. Cash or checks, in any amount, in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special, would be appropriate and welcomed. Our hopes and expectations are that additional gifts, coupled with Fund earnings, will cause the Fund value to increase so that Zion may play an ever-larger part in fulfilling its mission in the world. Your endowment gift would be a part of that process.