

20 Pentecost
Leadership Letter for the Week of October 4th-10th

To Our Zion Family,

This past Saturday we gathered to celebrate the life of our brother and one of Zion's elders, Fran King. As you know, Fran passed on to his heavenly Father last Monday. The first lesson at Fran's service, read by his granddaughter, Fawn Davis, was taken from Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8—"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Such a fitting reading as we mourned and remembered fondly our brother in Christ. Fran's daughters, Dee (Denise) and Jan, along with granddaughter, Fawn, and close family friend, Rev. Bruce Schrader, told stories that captured the essence of this wonderful man; thoughtful, protective, caring, generous, faithful, and encouraging. As the reading goes, "a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance..." For those "children of the 60's," here are the Byrds singing Turn, Turn, Turn (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcrddV5N9Xs>), a song written by Pete Seeger. We did a little of all those things this past Saturday, and we will continue to do so as the legacy of Fran King lives on for us. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Upcoming Sunday Service:

As a reminder, this Sunday's service, Oct. 10th, will begin at 11:00 AM (rather than the usual 10:00) due to the running of the Boilermaker.

As is the case each week, our service will be offered in several ways. We continue 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 11 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/UCWzOtbCe2z7bIPvxp62IA>

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

Volunteers needed!

Two Greeters are needed for Sunday, October 17th. Please sign-up in the Narthex or email Jeanne Gymburch (jgymburch@aol.com) or Barb Wilson (B62950@aol.com) to volunteer.

We also need volunteers to serve on one of Zion's many committees: This is OUR church, and our mission really calls us to do more than simply attend the Sunday worship service. If you do not currently serve on one of our many committees, we ask that you volunteer to join in. If you don't see an area that meets your skill set and interests, I'm sure we can find a place for you to pitch in and help. Here are the committees at Zion which help us to do God's work. Please contact the chairperson for the committee you are most interested in, or call Sara at the office (315-732-4110).

Property (Jim Schieble)

Hospitality (Kim Marscher)

Worship & Music (Jim Marscher)

Transportation (Dan Rodahan)

Stewardship (Jim Marscher)

Your Neighbors (Patsy Glista)

Christian Education (Matt LaFave)

Social Ministry (Jeanne Gymburch)

Personnel (Nancy Thompson)

Disabilities Ministry (Dan Rodahan)

Technology (Mark Thompson)

The Call Process:

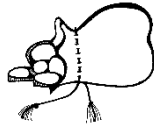
Our church council met with the call committee earlier in the week to discuss the candidate for Zion's pastor position and learn from the committee's vetting experience. Council is now preparing questions to ask when we meet them sometime in the weeks ahead. We will keep you apprised as this process continues to unfold.

The gospel reading for this past Sunday was taken from Mark 10. The text described Jesus instructing his disciples to allow the children to come to Him rather than keeping them away as would typically have been the case given the way children were viewed in those days: at best unimportant, and more likely a nuisance and/or not worthy of attention. Jesus gathered them up in his arms and blessed them. In his eyes, they were every bit as worthy of his attention as the adults. Rev. Janet reminded us, "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? ...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. ...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." Our homework for the week from Rev. Janet: "Open your eyes and your hearts to look around for the children. Pray for that child whether you know them or not, pray for their health and safety." In the week ahead, let us both talk the talk and walk the walk of true Christians, especially when it comes to the children we encounter.

Christ's peace be with you and your loved ones,
Mark Thompson, church council co-president



Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
20 Pentecost



October 10, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Walking with the Master*, by Louise E. Stairs

-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: *Take My Life, That I May Be vs. 1 & 4* Hymn #685 -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Vs. 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

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 10:17-31

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: -Deacon Patsy Glista

While taking a synod FLATT class on-line this summer, I was introduced to a new poet who is also an amazing songwriter, Carrie Newcomer. Over the last several weeks as I have read Mark's gospel texts, one of her songs has been roaming around in my head, a lot! *'You Can Do This Hard Thing'* was written in 2020 as we were all sheltering in place, staying home, away from family, friends and basically living lives that seemed, and still seem turned upside down and often very challenging. Even the one place we may have seen as a safe haven, our churches, were for a time closed, then come to church on your computer via Zoom, FB, YouTube - really, for some too hard. Then churches opened with restrictions - sit here, not there, wear a mask, don't wear a mask, then back to wearing masks; what about communion? Having faith and faithfully following our faith practices - not so easy.

Jesus' journeying with his disciples is moving ever closer to Judea and Jerusalem and his final days on earth. He's about to embark on the most difficult days of his ministry. Coming up in chapter 11 of Mark is Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. We all know the crucifixion follows just a few days later. Jesus' teaching is filled with things that tell his followers and us that being a disciple is not an easy thing - it's hard! Twice in past weeks we have heard Jesus tell his disciples that he will be betrayed and murdered and then rise in three days. Last week, we heard Jesus talking about divorce and relationships and saying, *'whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, will never enter it.'*

And today we have the rich man who seemingly has done all the right things. Can't you envision him checking off the list in his head - I go to synagogue every week and sit on several committees, I've read and taught my children the Torah, raised them right; followed all God's commandments since I was a boy; been good to my wife; I have worked hard, have a good job, am respected in the community; I let the poor glean in all my fields; and I've made plans so that, if something happens to me, my family is taken care of. They won't be on the street, but can move in with my brother. But he hears Jesus is in town and so, he decides to go ask Jesus about getting into heaven - just to be sure he hasn't missed anything. Sound familiar? Jesus listens, and then comes the *'Wait a minute, not so fast.'* Looking at the man with love, Jesus says he is still lacking one thing - a thing the man appears unwilling to do.

I sometimes envision Jesus singing the song, *'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'* or reciting a poem I've often seen on prayer cards at funerals that begins, *'God has not promised skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through.'* I suspect each one of us has had tasks that God set before us that were harder than we thought, and we may, at times, have said, I don't think I can do this. I can think of times when I was right there with Peter, "Look, we have left everything and followed you!" When I read this part of our gospel, I envision an exasperated Peter adding, *'How much more do you want, God?!'* Like the rich man, it is hard for us to follow Jesus.

Jesus sets the bar really, really high, doesn't he? Jesus makes his point three different ways in our gospel today. The rich man, who by his own admission has been faithful to the law since he was young, is told he is still lacking - *'go, sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'* Then, in case his disciples are still puzzling over this, Jesus uses the metaphor about the camel going through the eye of a needle. And when the disciples wonder then who can be saved, Jesus' response, *'You can't. It's impossible...; but...not for God; for God all things are possible.'* In other words, only God can save us.

In his commentary on today's gospel, Matt Skinner, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, shares that Mark depicts discipleship as following and staying with Jesus, which includes imitating him and carrying our own crosses right to the 'bitter end.' In the gospel of Matthew as Jesus is sending out the twelve to cast out spirits and heal the sick, he uses these words, *'whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.'* I don't know about you, but on any given day I'm not so good at imitating Jesus and I'd prefer life not ask me to carry any crosses. One of my husband's favorite sayings was *'The difficult we can do now...The impossible takes a little longer. I think that is why I'm drawn to the last verse of Carrie Newcomer's song,*

*"Here we stand breathless.
And pressed in hard times.
Hearts hung like laundry
on backyard clothes lines.
Impossible just takes*

*A little more time.
From the muddy ground
Comes a green volunteer.
In a place we thought
Barren, New life appears.
Morning will come whistling
Some comforting tune, For you.
You can do this hard thing.
You can do this hard thing.
It's not easy I know,
But I believe that it's so.
You can do this hard thing."*

But, the reality is that we can't do this hard thing of being Jesus' faithful disciples – not without Jesus at our side, walking with us, holding our hand, carrying us at times. It is impossible without Jesus' sacrifice – his death and resurrection for our sins. We cannot follow Jesus without living in our baptismal promises –

- living among God's faithful people. Gathering with one another, whether in person or virtually, to worship together, pray for one another, support and care for one another;
- hearing the word of God and sharing in the Lord's supper – in Bible study, reading scripture and breaking the communion bread together;
- proclaiming the good news of God in Jesus Christ through word and deed – to live our lives in ways that show by our actions and our words that we are followers of Christ;
- serving all people, following Jesus' example – reaching out to the most vulnerable in our communities, the hungry, homeless, refugees, the 'children' among us;
- striving for justice and peace in all the earth – to not be afraid to speak up when we see unjust actions.

At the Central Crossroads Fall Assembly last week, Bishop Lee Miller shared with us a little about his vision for our synod. The first was a one sentence statement in response to a question he had been asked about his vision for our church in Upstate New York. When I worked in non-profit, we called this type of statement the elevator statement, as it was a short and succinct way to describe an organization's mission in one sentence in the time it took the elevator to go from one floor to the next. It went like this, *"I dream a church where love activates us to do justice and to share joy."*

The second was what he called five practices of discipleship, or 'the Grace' mindset. Using the letters of the word GRACE, he described Grace as Generous Love / Restorative Justice / Adaptive Leadership / Collaboration / Experimentation. What might it look like to love generously even those who don't feel loveable – those whose opinions are contrary to our own; those who live differently, speak differently, the strangers in our midst. We live in a very diverse community which will soon welcome Afghan refugees who join the thousands of other refugees who have come to call our area home. What would it look like to live restorative justice – how might we share more of what we have, individually and as a congregation, with those who have little in our community? Consider the possibilities if we seek to understand one another more, if through our words and actions we always seek to restore justice with joy. Consider the ways we might adapt our actions to be more inclusive, to listen more openly to another's perspective – in our congregation, with other faith communities, and in our neighborhoods. How might we better use our possessions, individually and as a congregation, to serve the poor as Jesus asked of the rich man? What opportunities for new experiences, growth in our churches, might come about from reaching out to new people, those we don't know, maybe even those we have avoided in the past, and choose to collaborate, to try something new – sort of an experiment without wondering if it will be as good as it used to be?

Jesus sets the bar high, but he also promises that he will be with us always. He walked the hard road to Calvary on our behalf. Now he calls us to be his disciples, to follow Him. It is a hard thing – impossible, unless as we respond in our Affirmation of Baptism, we ask God to help and guide us. For as the author of Hebrews writes, *"Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

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: For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, by Carl Gotthelf Glaser, arr. by Silver Piano -Kelli Watson

Prayers of Intercession

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

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

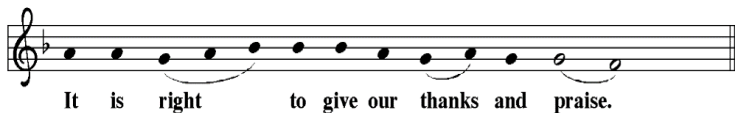
Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind, like The Warming Center, and Your Neighbors. 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, comfort for the family of Michael Gilleece, healing for Joyce, MaryEllen S., 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.**

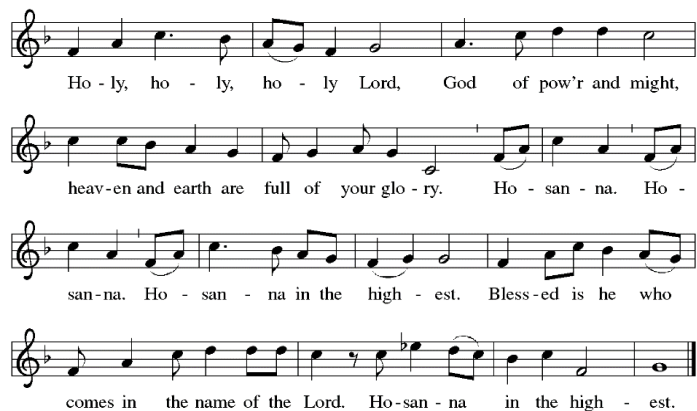
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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,

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: *God of Grace and God of Glory vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #705 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r; crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

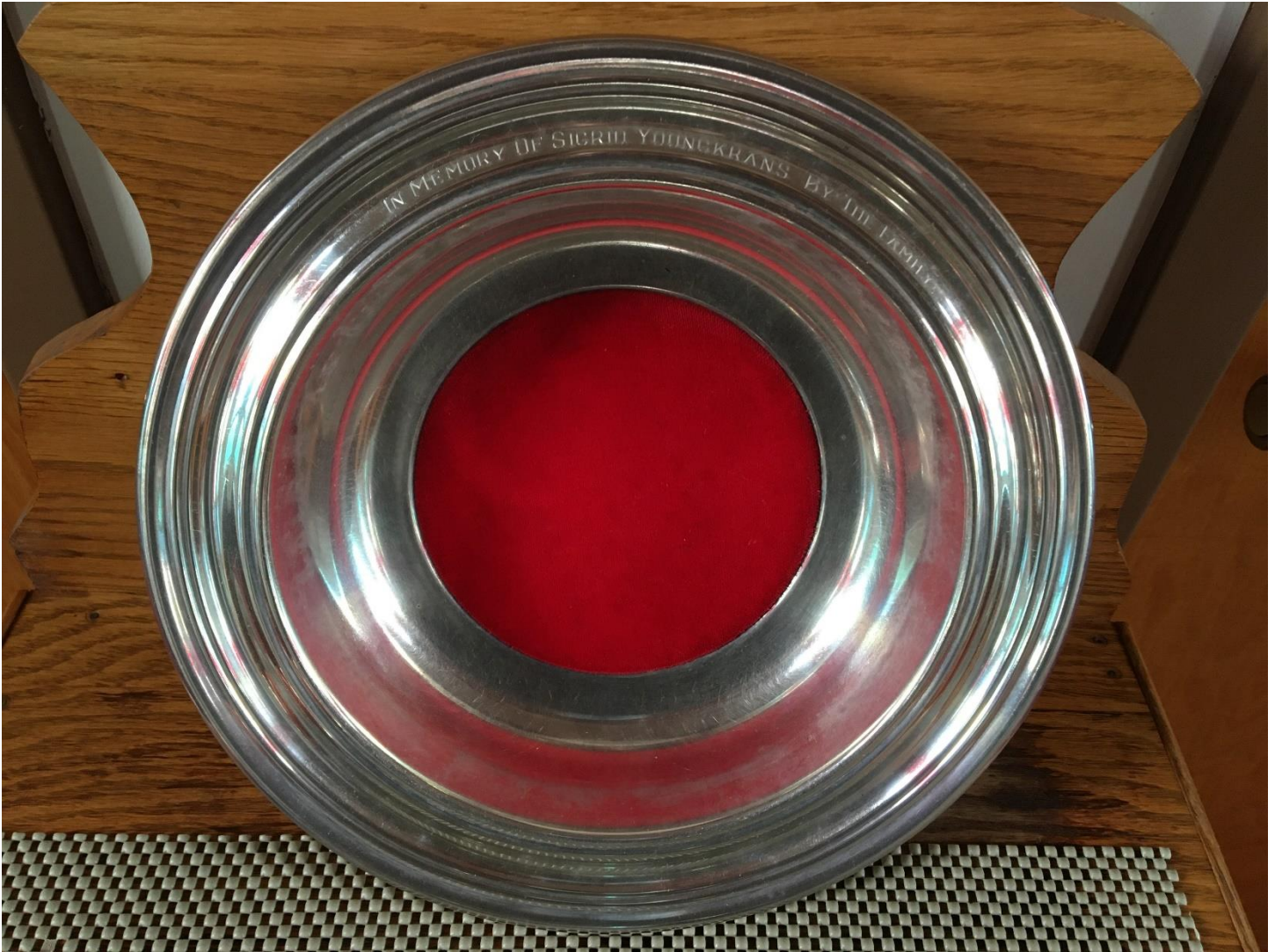
Vs. 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Variations on a Welsh Hymn, by Benton Price -Kelli Watson*

Zion's Religious Artifacts IV - the Youngkrans Offering Plate



The four offering plates used in our worship are memorial gifts that date back to Old Zion. The words, “In Memory of Sigrid Youngkrans, By the Family” are inscribed on one of them.

Although I grew up with the Youngkrans children, I never knew anything about their heritage. Research remedied that deficiency.

Edward and Sigrid Bengston Youngkrans were married in Gothenburg, Sweden, on April 5, 1915. The newlyweds immigrated to our country aboard the ship, *Stockholm*, in 1916 and moved to Utica two years later. Purchased by the Swedish-America Line in 1915, the vessel was primarily a passenger ship, but also carried cargo.

World War I, which raged in Europe from 1914-1917, greatly affected the *Stockholm*. The Royal Navy stopped the ship on its maiden voyage to America, forced the vessel to a British port, and searched it for contraband. Although Sweden was neutral during the conflict, the Swedish-America Line painted “STOCKHOLM - SVERIGE” (Sweden) on the boat’s port and starboard sides to remind German submariners that it was a non-target. Considering these facts, Edward and Sigrid Youngkrans may have experienced more than a little anxiety during their voyage to the United States.

Edward worked as a chef in Utica's hotels, while Sigrid kept the family's home. Four children blessed the marriage: Evelyn (b. 1917), Roland ("Ronnie" - 1919), Allan (1921), and Robert (1923). Evelyn married Fred Lamont and lived in Fulton. Robert wed Rhea Marshall and resided in the Oneida-Canastota area. Ronnie and Alan remained in Utica and were lifelong members of our church.

Veteran Zion folk will quickly recall Allan, his wife Edna (Schuff), and their four children: Allan, Jr., David, Valerie, and Lori - all of whom were baptized and confirmed here. Allan, Sr. served on the Council and, as church custodian, gave Zion exceptional maintenance after his retirement from the Utica Fire Department. The Youngkrans family remodeled the Fireside Room in 1970 as a memorial to Allan, Jr., who gave his life for our country during the Vietnam War on August 2, 1969.

Sigrid Youngkrans entered the church triumphant on May 18, 1955. Her obituary stated that she was active in Zion's Ladies Aid. Edward Youngkrans was reunited with his wife on November 15, 1957.



“One of the greatest gifts you can give someone is your focused ATTENTION.”

-Millie Angevine

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.

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.