

## Leadership Letter for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 Pentecost

Dear Zion Family,

At Zion, we have been on two long roads—one through the COVID-19 pandemic and, the other, the search for a pastor. We will reach the end. Please read again with me the introduction to the encouraging letter that Paul wrote to the Philippians and to us. “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart, for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

### **How many people attended Zion on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>?**

Twenty-two people attended worship in person and at least twenty-six people worshiped remotely, thus the total was forty-eight.

### **Where will in-person worship be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>?**

The Rev. Janet Hoover will preside at Zion Lutheran Church on those two Sundays. Pastor Janet will take us along to explore more of Paul’s words written to the church in Philippi and to us.

To join these services 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-bIPvxp62lA>

### **Where will we worship in person on the five Sundays in August?**

For services on August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>, we are invited to worship at Our Saviour. We will be worshipping at Zion on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, worshipping remotely will be an option on each of these Sundays.

### **Will masks need to be worn at Zion?**

IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED, it is not required that you wear a mask: *if you feel more comfortable wearing your mask, please feel free to continue.*

IF YOU ARE **NOT** FULLY VACCINATED, please continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others who are not vaccinated.

CHILDREN WILL BE EXPECTED TO WEAR MASKS.

IF YOU ARE GOING IN THE OFFICE DURING THE WEEK, please wear a mask as the space is small and it is difficult to remain six feet apart.

THOSE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH UNMASKED PERSONS IN THE SANCTUARY are encouraged to either wear a mask, attend the service via Zoom (or livestreamed or Facebook), or attend Our Saviour, where masking continues to be required (but may not be after their council meeting next week).

WE WILL TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ZION FAMILY and not require proof of vaccination. *Please see "Update on COVID 19 Protocols at Zion" for the complete list that was recommended by Worship & Music and the Task Force for Return to In-person Worship and was approved by Zion's Council on 7/12/21. It can be found in this document after the Leadership Letter.*

### **What is the status of Zion's Roof Fund?**

Zion is still working on paying ourselves back for the money we borrowed from our Mission Investment savings to complete the Roof Project. We still have approximately \$15,000 to go in order to completely pay ourselves back. Please continue to fulfill the pledges that you made so we can fully pay ourselves back and retire this debt. Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to this effort!!

### **What improvements for Zion were authorized by Council on July 12th?**

1. A Pan Tilt and Zoom (PTZ) Streaming camera system will be installed and the camera will be mounted in the balcony. This upgrade will greatly enhance our video and audio capabilities.
2. Two dead pine trees will be removed from the property.
3. The sanctuary will be painted.

### **Will our children be able to experience VBS this summer?**

Our Saviour is offering Vacation Bible School and has invited the families from Zion to attend. The theme is LIFE GIVING WATER, and the kickoff event will be on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM. Please see the flyer that is included after the Service of the Word.

### **Does the Call Committee have another candidate to consider?**

We are hoping there will be good news soon.

May our time this summer with Rev. Hoover and Paul's letter to the Philippians be filled with comfort, encouragement, joy, praise, grace, and hope,

Laurel McCurdy, church council co-president

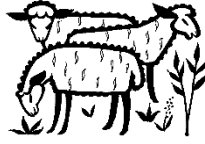
## UPDATE ON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT ZION

*Worship & Music and The Task Force for Return to In-person Worship recommended these safety protocols to Zion's Council and they were approved on 7/12/21.*

- **MASKS**—IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED, it is not required that you wear a mask: *if you feel more comfortable wearing your mask, please feel free to continue.*  
IF YOU ARE **NOT** FULLY VACCINATED, please continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others who are not vaccinated.  
CHILDREN WILL BE EXPECTED TO WEAR MASKS.  
IF YOU ARE GOING IN THE OFFICE DURING THE WEEK, please wear a mask as the space is small and it is difficult to remain six feet apart.  
THOSE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH UNMASKED PERSONS IN THE SANCTUARY are encouraged to either wear a mask, attend the service via Zoom (or livestreamed or Facebook), or attend Our Saviour, where masking continues to be required (but may not be after their council meeting next week).  
WE WILL TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ZION FAMILY and not require proof of vaccination.
- **GREETERS**—when you arrive, greeters will continue to note that you are in attendance and will be sure that you use hand sanitizer before using the railing and when you get to the Narthex. Greeters will not need to wear gloves but will use hand sanitizer often.
- **USHER DUTIES**—Ushers will not need to wear gloves, but will use hand sanitizer frequently as they hand out bulletins, lift the communion covers, and restock the communion trays. **They will continue to monitor people leaving the sanctuary one row at a time.**
- **PEACE**—people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, but there will be no handshaking, hugging, or other physical contact.
- **BARRIERS**—the transparent screens at the front of the sanctuary will be removed.
- **HYMNALS AND BIBLES**—will be returned to the racks in the pews.
- **SINGING**—for now we will continue to sing only 2 verses of each hymn.
- **SERMONS**—we will continue to include sermons in the weekly mailings.
- **COMMUNION**—Packets of Communion elements will now be available for people worshipping at home either virtually or with The Service of the Word. Contact Sara in the office (315.732.4110) to arrange pickup or delivery of the packets.
- **NURSERY**—it will remain closed for now.
- **OFFERING**—we will continue to place our gifts of money in the offering plates that are in the back of the sanctuary.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING**—please, remember to stay six feet apart.
- **FELLOWSHIP**—we will continue meeting in the Fellowship Hall where it is cooler in the summer. Cold beverages will be offered, if we have volunteers to be responsible for set up and clean up.
- **IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS**—committees may meet in the Fellowship Hall where it is cooler and there is better air circulation.

These protocols will remain in place unless there is a change in the infection rates for Oneida County and pending any change in recommendations from the Oneida County Health Department, the NYS Health Department, and the CDC.

Zion Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, NY  
& Pentecost



July 18, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Traumerei*, by P. Tchaikowsky -Kelli Watson

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. God, our provider,

**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #332 -Kelli Watson

**Vs. 1** I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

**Vs. 3** I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my start, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:27-2:11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Musical notation for the Hallelujah acclamation, consisting of three staves of music in G major. The lyrics are: 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:** Luke 14: 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

**Sermon:** *Moving On Down* —Pastor Janet Hoover

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he exhorts them to live as citizens—to speak and act in ways that demonstrate their loyalty to God. Then, as if someone has said, “Can you be a bit more specific?,” he describes what our citizenship looks like. He doesn't present us with a list of rules, but with a broad sketch of what discipleship looks like. Listen again to Paul's words, this time as translated by Eugene Peterson: *If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.* How does that make you feel? You want to follow Jesus. You want to live a life that radiates goodness and love, but don't work your way to the front? Don't talk your way to the top? Help others get ahead? Seriously? Some of you may remember the theme song to the 70s sitcom, *The Jefferson's*: We're movin' on up to the East Side, to a deluxe apartment in the sky... Moving on up. Isn't that the American way? We speak of climbing the ladder of success or starting at the bottom and working our way up. And then we hear this scripture passage, and we shake our heads in puzzlement, for the concept of finding fulfillment and freedom and success by moving down is almost shocking. It runs against the grain of everything we learn and read and see around us. Yet, in this letter, Paul reminds believers that there is more to life than becoming #1. The church in Philippi is successful, cosmopolitan, diverse, ambitious, and visible. The talent, affection, and achievement of the believers have aroused great joy and affection in Paul. The letter might be described as a love letter accentuating the special place these folks have found in his heart. But it is because they are successful and ambitious and special, that they most need to hear the loving chastisement that Paul offers to them. Beware, he says. Your achievement has led to self-sufficiency. Your pride has led to self-importance. Your focus on excellence has led to factions, competition, and disunity. In becoming “good at God,” he writes, you are actually distancing yourself from the very one you are called to serve. Therefore, repent. Humble yourself. Focus not on success, but faithfulness. And then he goes on to give them an example. Again, from Eugene Peterson: *Think of yourself the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God, but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human. Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.* Remember Jesus, Paul says. He didn't cling to the advantages of divine status. He didn't look down from a throne of glory, shake his head and say—somebody ought to do something to help those poor suffering, lost people. Not at all. He gave up everything—dignity, comfort, status, praise, and glory. He gave it all up to become human. And not some important well-off human, but a poor peasant, who knew hard work and oppression. He came to us as a baby—the most helpless and vulnerable of creatures. And, having become human, he stayed human. He didn't say—I've had enough. I'm tired of being hungry and thirsty. I'm tired of criticism and misunderstanding, I'm tired of the hot sun and the cold wind, I'm tired of absorbing anger and hate, I'm tired of sore feet and lack of sleep and constant demands and complaints. I'm out of here. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he stayed with us, even when that led to the most painful, humiliating death of the time—crucifixion. That is our example of obedience and selfless living.

These words were a challenge to the church in Philippi, and they continue to challenge us today. As we look back, we see a parade of people—many of them clutching their garments of power and wealth anxiously, eyes shifting constantly to see who is looking at them, who is better dressed. They wanted to be faithful, but the siren call of adulation and prestige and acclaim was too much for them. Here and there in the crowd, we see those with a different look—they are somewhat bedraggled, limping and bruised, but, with heads held high, they are alive with a light and love that takes our breath away. An inspiring sight, perhaps...but one that leaves me feeling a little inadequate. Sure, we know that we are called to follow Christ's example. Sure, we can look at a few people and admire their courage for doing just that. But really...moving down is not a realistic way to get along in this world. And yet, try as I might, I see nothing in Scripture, nothing in the life of Christ, that offers a way other than that of service and humility. As Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, our call remains the same as that of the church of Philippi—to love God with everything we have, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is hard work. We listen to the drumbeat of society saying: Buy more. Please yourself. Feel good. Look out for #1. Be the best. Winning is everything. Bigger is better. We are called to listen to a different drummer, to pick up the beat of Jesus. Forgive those who hurt you. Feed my sheep. Care for your neighbor. Share what you have. Pray for your enemy. Pick up your cross. Follow me. And, if we take his lead, we find ourselves not on an upward path surrounded by the adulation and praise of our peers, but

on a path of sacrificial servanthood which leads us steadily down into the heart of suffering and loneliness and struggle, where we are to bring the light of God's love and compassion. The first step may be the most difficult. For we are to have the mind of Christ who emptied himself for our sakes. What do you need to get rid of? What fills you and blocks you from serving as Christ served? Is it the fear of not being admired, privileged, or right? Is it self-loathing or self-defensiveness?

Is it an anxiety of having enough to survive or of being inadequate? Is it long-harbored resentments or guilt? A longing to fit in with the crowd and not make waves? The thought of emptying ourselves may seem impossible: "It's just the way I am—it's too late for me to change." "I have to live in the real world, so I have to make compromises and adjustments." And the thought of self-emptying is also frightening. If we get rid of all of these things, we may simply collapse like a deflated balloon. So, we keep on living with old patterns, old habits, old anxieties. But God doesn't give up on us. And that's good news. *Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, a new life has begun.* That's not just good news, that is the best news we can hear. We can empty ourselves, knowing that God will then fill our hearts, our lives with new things—gladness and serenity, confidence and hope and love. Remember, even as Jesus calls us to wear the yoke of servanthood, so he promises to share the yoke with us. And in that is our hope. For because of his obedience, his willingness to give everything out of love, God honors him beyond anything imaginable. Again, from Eugene Peterson: *Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those who are long dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.* The day will come—is coming even now—when all creatures will bow in worship before the one who has loved us even unto death—Master of all, and servant of all. And our voices will join in the great chorus of praise that echoes through all eternity: So, may it be. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

### 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: Here I Am, Lord, Daniel Shutte -Kelli Watson*

### Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

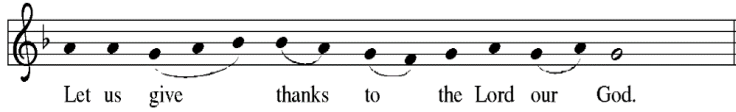
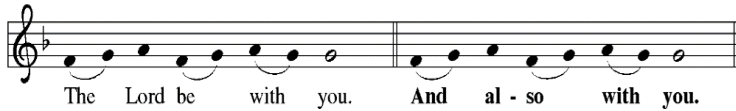
Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 of Claudia Trad, Carole, Gail, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Claudia & Fran, Ed and family, prayers for Michael Gillece and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

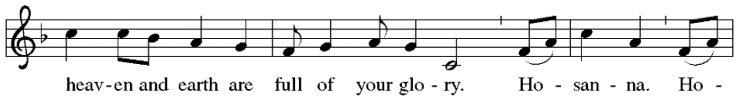
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## 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,

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon 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. God, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Jubilate Deo*, by Roy E. Nolte -Kelli Watson



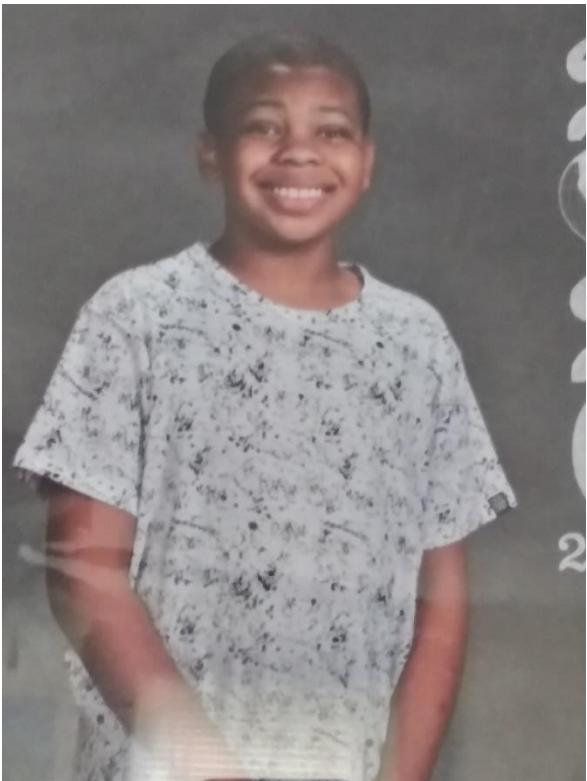
Mark & Nancy Thompson and Jennifer Pierce role playing at the sexual harassment class held at Our Saviour on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Pastor Anita and the folks who led the course.



## Congratulations, students!



Congratulations to Holly Cifonelli, Gloria's granddaughter. Holly graduated from Sauquoit Valley High and will be going to Utica College. She has been in the Honor Society all throughout high school and received 10 special awards, which was the most in her class! Holly was one of the top 10 in her class, and she rides for the missing children and stays busy doing different charitable work. Holly was a pole vaulter and on the cross-country team.



Jon Daly's grandson, Tevin, has been busy these last 15 months with school, Cub Scouts, and learning to fish. His prize achievement is the hotdog car he built with his great grandpa for the virtual Pinewood Derby. Tevin has hit a growth spurt; he is now 5' 3" at just 10 years old and is already in men's size shoes! He continues to make everyone laugh.





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## At Home!!

Theme: Life Giving Water

Kick Off Event!

Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm



Drop your children off at Our Saviour Lutheran (or stay if you want) for a simple hotdog meal, and some activities to kick off our at home Vacation Bible School! Parents return at 7:30.

Everything will take place outdoors. Water will be involved so your children will need bathing suits or clothes that can get wet, a towel and dry clothes for the ride home.

Materials will be provided for families to use to explore Bible Stories and our theme of Life Giving Water. There will be crafts, music, outdoor activities and short videos for families to grow in faith together.

If you are unable to attend, you will be able to receive the materials.

For more information, contact Pam Donovan (315)736-8042.