

## All Saints' Sunday, Leadership Letter for November 7<sup>th</sup>

Dear Zion Family,

Pastor Jen DeWeerth opened Reformation Sunday's service by reading "Luther's Psalm," Psalm 46, the Psalm that Martin Luther paraphrased when he wrote one of our favorite hymns, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The writer of this Psalm is saying that God is our refuge in times of trouble. God is ready to help us in the present moment and we can place our trust in Him. 30 people worshipping in person and 19 people who Zoomed our service heard those words on Reformation Day—it is a wonderful Psalm to reread this week.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SERVICE AT ZION AT 10 AM~** This coming Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, is All Saints Sunday. While we do not have a supply pastor for this Sunday, we will offer in-person worship in Zion's sanctuary utilizing the Service of the Word. This Sunday will mark the kick-off of Zion's annual stewardship campaign. Co-president of Council, Mark Thompson, will provide information about Zion's current financial status in a Stewardship Kickoff.

As is the case each week, our service will be offered in several ways. 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#. 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>

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AT OUR SAVIOUR AT 7 PM ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021~** "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" are the words said at our baptisms as a lighted candle is handed to the godparents of the baptized. It is the theme of our All Saints Day Celebration this year. Three area Lutheran churches, Trinity - Herkimer, Zion - New Hartford and Our Saviour - Utica are planning to gather at Our Saviour for a celebration of those who have been light to our lives and are no longer with us. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to being light for the world to see.

We are aware that many of us have not been able to have those public celebrations in the past year or more. We will light a candle in the church windows at Our Saviour for each person we wish to remember. We will read a little scripture, and pray. We will go outside to admire what we have done, sing "For All the Saints" and "O When the Saints Go Marching In" accompanied by trumpets and keyboard and light candles of our own as signs of our commitment to be light to others. Three Lutheran Churches are acting together in order to give opportunity for the community to participate. We will leave the candles burning for a bit to give hope to others that God's light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

**CHURCHES UNITED IN FAITH—FIND WAYS TO "BE CHURCH TOGETHER"~** Active conversations between Trinity/Herkimer, Zion/New Hartford and Our Saviour/Utica Lutheran Churches continue! In addition to joining Our Saviour for their evening All Saints Celebration, other ideas are being explored to help our communities become active with one another. Supporting the Afghanistan Refugee families who are coming to the Mohawk Valley is one idea. Sharing technology methods and resources among the three churches is another. Action projects that will be meaningful to our younger members are being emphasized. Zoom meetings are held monthly - please contact Fran Holzberger if you would like to be invited to future Zoom meetings. *Read on for information about another upcoming event.*

**WOMEN IN FAITH LUNCH EVENT~** All women from our three congregations are invited to a Brown Bag Luncheon on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 12-noon. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Zion members will offer this week's program, *The heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch*. It will be a great way to kick off the holiday season! For further information or to carpool and/or RSVP, please contact Fran Holzberger 315-796-3434, or email: [rholzberger@roadrunner.com](mailto:rholzberger@roadrunner.com). Hope to see you there!

There is plenty to think about this week and next: Psalm 46, Pastor Jen's sermon, "Truth and Freedom," remembering our loved ones who have died, contributing our time, talents, and funds, Mark's Stewardship Kickoff, finding a pastor for Zion, being church together with Trinity and Our Saviour, the Angel and Mitten Trees...

May we all be free to move away from sin and move toward the way, the truth and the life,  
Laurel McCurdy, council co-president

Zion Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, NY  
All Saints' Sunday



November 7, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *For All the Saints, Vaughan Williams/Held* -Marcus Corasanti

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts.

Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Gather Us In, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #532* -Marcus Corasanti

**Vs. 1** Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, in the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

**Vs. 4** Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away - here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16, Pg. 555

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6, Pg. 1937

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 12: 38-44, Pg. 1576

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

**Stewardship Kickoff and State of the Church:** *-Mark Thompson*

Let me share a story from the Taoist faith tradition.

There was an old farmer who had worked his crops for many years. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbors came to visit. "Such bad luck," they said sympathetically. "Maybe," the farmer replied.

The next morning the horse returned, bringing with it three other wild horses. "How wonderful," the neighbors exclaimed. "Maybe," replied the old man.

The following day, his son tried to ride one of the untamed horses, was thrown, and broke his leg. The neighbors again came to offer their sympathy for what they called his "misfortune."

"Maybe," answered the farmer.

The day after, military officials came to the village to draft young men into the army. Seeing that the son's leg was broken, they passed him by. The neighbors congratulated the farmer on how well things had turned out.

"Maybe," said the farmer.

Many lessons can be taken from this story. It speaks of uncertainty, patience, and looking beyond the short-term, acknowledging the wisdom of seeing the bigger picture. This story also reminds us that initial appearances may be deceiving.

I thought of this story as I began preparing my remarks to kick-off this year's Stewardship Campaign. Laurel McCurdy and I serve as co-presidents of Zion's church council. We recognize our responsibility to keep you informed about the status of our church, including Zion's finances and how we are functioning, along with sharing the issues and challenges we are now and may soon be facing down the road. I'd like to talk with you about three things this morning: Zion's finances, our call process, and stewardship. While separate issues, they are three interconnected parts. So here goes.

First, how are Zion's finances? If you were to look at Zion's latest monthly financial statements, you'd see we are experiencing a surplus for this year of over \$35,000. That is wonderful news and speaks to the generosity of our congregation during an especially difficult year. So, that means we're in good financial shape, right? After all, we are in the black this year (meaning our income has exceeded our expenses), have no mortgage on our church building or parsonage, and have endowed funds in excess of \$600,000 dollars. Good financial shape? To quote the wise farmer, "Maybe...." If you look a bit deeper, the picture might not seem quite so rosy.

As you all know, we have been without a full-time pastor since Feb. 9, 2020—that's 21 months ago. The main expense for virtually any organization or business, churches included, is staff salaries. That certainly is the case for Zion. Our pastor's salary has always been the single highest expense we have. If you've been around here long enough and regularly attended the annual congregational meeting, you know that, in almost every one of the past 20 years, our congregation has voted to approve a deficit budget – meaning that we expected our expenses would be higher than our income for the year ahead. And, come the end of those fiscal years, we did spend more than we took in virtually every year. The only exceptions where we finished "in the black" were those years when we did not have a full-time pastor. Such is the case for this 2021 fiscal year.

We've been very lucky to have wonderful supply pastors since Pastor David finished up here: Reverends Janet Hoover, Jen DeWeerth, Eldon DeWeerth, and Deacon Patsy Glista. During this time of a pastoral void, God sent

these worship leaders to us. Their sermons have been inspiring and thought provoking, helping us see and feel the presence of God in the midst of all the heartache taking place around us. Not only have they led us in worship for the past 21 months, their stipends, combined with the stipend we pay Pastor Anita as our transition pastor, have cost us less money than a full-time pastor's salary! So that's great, right? "Maybe" said the farmer. While they have all been wonderful, we must acknowledge that something has been missing. I believe, and I hope some, if not all, of you would agree, having a good full-time pastor leading our congregation and helping us to more fully carry out our mission is a financial expense worth undertaking. Things just haven't been the same without a full-time pastor. I'll tell you that we have made it through this pandemic to date because of the incredible work and dedication of a number of people in this congregation who have stepped up above and beyond the call of duty with their stewardship and contributions of time and talent. More on that later. I will refrain from starting to name these individuals, because I'll inevitably leave someone out. But I think you know who they are, and we are most grateful for their selfless and significant contributions to all of us.

Acknowledging that our supply pastors have truly been a Godsend, the reality is that the available pastors to fill this role are in short-supply. Rev. Janet Hoover, who served us wonderfully since David's departure, concluded her time with us two weeks ago due to family obligations. We're in a tough spot right now trying to find a suitable replacement for Janet.

In the past 18 months, 15 members of our Zion family have passed away. At least 10 of them were active members who were faithful financial contributors. We have not replaced those lost with new members. There's a chance that the budgeted income for next year based on the pledge cards that will be submitted during our stewardship campaign may be less than last year. So, in the short term, we are in a comfortable financial position: we're able to pay our bills and our staff, leaving us with some money in reserve. If and when we do find the right pastor for Zion, the current surplus could easily have a negative sign in front of it when we factor in the cost of a full-time pastor. We would almost certainly be in the midst of another budget deficit year.

My second topic to cover this morning is our Call process. Not only are supply pastors hard to come by, but full-time pastors are also limited in number. Our Call Committee, led by Jack Henke, has served Zion with thoughtfulness, patience, and determination since forming over 18 months ago. Thank you to Jack, Doreen Nicholls, Deb Murdock, John Blackburn, Lisa Lucas-Meyers, and Linda Bennett. After the hard work of vetting three candidates forwarded to them by the Synod, about a month ago the Call Committee found someone they were excited about, recommending this person to Council for review. We, too, were excited and prepared to interview the candidate, only to receive an email 10 days ago in which the candidate informed us that they had decided to withdraw from the process. The candidate indicated that, after considerable discernment, they did not believe the "fit" with Zion was right. I wish I had more to tell you about the "fit" issue, but that's all I have been able to learn at this point. I think it's safe to say that everyone involved—members of the Call Committee and the Church Council—felt very disappointed and a bit deflated in receiving this news. Bad news? "Maybe" said the farmer. As we have learned from previous experience, better to wait for a pastor who is the right "fit" for our congregation and mission than move quickly ahead with a poor match, given all the turmoil that accompanies that situation. We believe that the God who has guided Zion in our mission thus far will continue leading us forward to become the church we are called to be. Unfortunately, the reality is that the number of potential pastors across the country looking for new calls is very limited. Making it even more of a challenge, the number of potential ministers interested in moving to the northeast and upstate NY, in particular, is even smaller. The most recent candidate would have been moving from North Carolina if our congregation voted to extend the call after their visit here. Perhaps the geographic issue contributed to the perceived poor "fit" from the candidate's perspective?

The limited pool of candidates for our pastor's position, added to our financial realities, will make it a challenge to find a pastor. We will continue to look, however, and ask for your prayers for everyone involved in this process. But we should not bury our heads in the sand. We believe it would be wise to "look down the road" and

recognize that we may need to eventually consider other options, and possibly sooner, rather than later. Perhaps we look to share a pastor with another nearby Lutheran church, or maybe even another Protestant denomination that is compatible with our Lutheran theology. While the idea of combining with a non-Lutheran denomination might seem like a more extreme idea, remember that neither Pastor David, Rev. Janet Hoover, or Rev. Jen DeWeerth are ordained Lutheran ministers. Rev. Janet is an ordained Presbyterian minister, and David and Jen are ordained by the United Church of Christ. Perhaps we share other staff positions—an organist, office staff, housekeeping, or a sexton? We might consider sharing expenses like the lease of our copy machine, the bulk purchase of office supplies, or materials for Christian Education programs. Combining with another congregation in some fashion may be a wise course to consider.

Finally, the third issue, Stewardship. What does all of this have to do with Stewardship; the sharing of our time, talents, and financial resources to help carry out the mission of Zion? While we can all agree that there are lots of unknowns for us right now, there are still some things that are very much known. Let me remind us of our purpose, as presented in Zion's mission statement: We are called and empowered by God's love and the Risen Christ to joyfully welcome all, grow in faith, serve our community, and live in hope. While a pastor can definitely help us with these things, we are certainly capable of continuing to live out this mission, even without a pastor in place. But without a pastor, carrying out that mission is even more dependent on the time, talents, and financial resources shared by all members of our congregation, not just the same old stalwart volunteers.

When we do contribute the gifts we have been blessed with, we can make the experiences of others sitting here in this sanctuary, or watching from home, that much better. We have the power to enrich the religious and spiritual lives of others, along with our own. Look around and you will find lots of examples. Finding supply pastors for pretty much four of the past seven years has made worship in this sanctuary possible for all of us and has taken a huge amount of time and effort on the part of one selfless volunteer. Countless and thankless hours keeping Zion's finances in order enables us to continue operating. Arranging for supply organists to provide music at our Sunday services adds richness to our liturgy. The coordination and logistics for food baskets, along with your generous contributions of food and funds, has made it possible for us to provide holiday baskets to those in need of a full meal at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those who recruit and schedule ushers and greeters for Sunday worship have helped us to feel welcomed and safe as we returned to the sanctuary during the pandemic. Angel and Mitten Trees don't just miraculously happen. The coordination of those efforts guarantees that some needy kids who might otherwise go without will have a gift under their trees on Christmas morning. Numerous people in this sanctuary contributed bedding, cleaning supplies, and food to the Morrow Warming Center a few months ago to support their efforts in meeting the needs of the homeless. Those who volunteered to make meals, and those delivering those meals through the Your Neighbors program, have kept some people in our community from going hungry. All of those outcomes and programs here at Zion occur because individuals have given of themselves for the glory of God and to the benefit of each of us. We are all familiar with the phrase, God's work, our hands. We have witnessed the presence of God this past year, and in all the years past, through the sharing of all we have been given with one another and the world beyond these walls. All of these things take time, and talent, and money. We anticipate that having a full-time pastor in place would make all of these things a bit easier. But, even with a pastor in place, we still need each of you and what you have to contribute, enabling us to strive toward our mission, our purpose for joining together as a church family.

What factors into our decisions about where to direct our God-given resources of time, talent, and money? Generally, we act when something has meaning for us, or when spending our money or investing our time will add to the quality of our lives. We buy winter tires for our car so we are safe when the snow flies. We take a vacation with our family to create a shared experience, make memories, and grow closer with those we love. We spend money on school tuition because becoming educated persons can make life more interesting and create opportunities that might otherwise not be available. Bottom line, and in most cases, when we have the choice, we spend our time, our money, and our abilities on those things that are meaningful to us. So, I ask the question,

with no guilt or coercion intended—how important is your religious and spiritual life to you? If it's important, I ask that you thoughtfully consider your response to this year's stewardship request. How much can you give? Where can you volunteer your time to help Zion carry out our mission? Is it your turn to serve on our church council? Can you usher, greet, or serve as a worship assistant? Your contributions are important—both to you as well as to the life of this church.

I'll conclude by saying thank you for all you have contributed this past year, and all the past years. We have witnessed God's grace in your generosity. And as we face the challenges I've outlined in this talk, I'll ask that you continue to support our work here at Zion with your prayers and continued contributions of time, talent, and funds. If you have room to contribute more in any of these areas, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so.

Thank you.

#### **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: Autumn Leaves, by Nat King Cole -Marcus Corasanti*

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world.

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. 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 and friends of Fran King, healing for Bert Davis, comfort for the family of Catherine Schieble, 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. *A bell will toll to acknowledge those who have joined the company of saints in recent years.* As I read the names of those we have lost, please come forward to light a candle or candles.

### *Born*

### *Died*

Doris Berry	September 6, 1925	July 30, 2021
Janet Burton	September 23, 1925	September 6, 2020
Diane Champine	March 24, 1947	June 27, 2020
Paul Douglass	October 19, 1942	June 16, 2020
Donna Ferenti	June 23, 1956	February 20, 2020
Michael Gilleece	February 11, 1977	August 12, 2021
Norm Glista	April 05, 1937	December 29, 2020
Eleanor Harrington	August 31, 1929	April 6, 2021
John Emerson Heitz	1929	October 15, 2021
Robert Imobersteg	September 4, 1926	October 1, 2020
John Joslyn	April 19, 1962	January 21, 2021
Peggy Joslyn	January 8, 1935	January 17, 2021
Fran King	October 5, 1934	September 27, 2021
Klara Kohlbrenner	December 23, 1925	March 5, 2020
John Kratzert	June 19, 1942	September 21, 2021
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	September 12, 1925	March 3, 2020
Barbara Reinshagen	December 17, 1929	July 30, 2021
Catherine Schieble	May 17, 1930	October 10, 2021
George Thompson	February 1, 1935	August 11, 2020
Claudia Trad	August 16, 1943	June 28, 2021
Paul Van Allen	August 10, 1935	June 24, 2020
Louise Wurster	January 2, 1921	January 31, 2021

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, 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.**

### **Blessing**

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *For All the Saints, vs. 1 & 7 Hymn#422 -Marcus Corasanti*

**Vs. 1** For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Vs. 7** From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pear streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Dismissal**

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Jubilate Deo, by Roy E. Nolte -Marcus Corasanti*



Zion's Confirmation Class of 1945. John Heitz stands in the top row, far left. Audrey Long Scholl is between John and Pastor Nolte. Gene White is in the lower row, far right.

In Memoriam: John Emerson Heitz (1929-2021)

-by Jack Henke

John Heitz, a member of Zion's Confirmation Class of 1945, entered the church triumphant on October 15, 2021. A retired program analyst for the Department of Defense, John lived in Troy, New York, with his beloved wife Candy. I "met" John when he emailed our office in 2014 to request archival information about his father and grandfather, both of whom graduated from Zion's elementary school. Scores of emails, phone calls, and one luncheon occasion followed in what evolved into a rich friendship.

John's recollections of his father and grandfather's stories about Zion's *schule* (school) broadened our knowledge of the type of education offered at 613 Columbia Street. Fluent in German, John translated a number of significant passages from our archives for use in my books. He served as an invaluable sounding board for pre-publication chapters that dealt with Zion's German language era, and his suggestions greatly improved the text. His constant encouragement and support made a positive difference - *every day* - in my research and writing. One of John's stories will forever remain with me. After his mother passed, his father remarried and his stepmother brought the children to a fundamentalist congregation in Cornhill. John disliked the new church and, at age fifteen, rebelled. On a Sunday morning in 1944, he walked from his home on Lincoln Avenue to Zion and experienced, in his words, a beautiful *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* (a "feeling of belonging, equality, and unity"). Pastor William Nolte, several adults, and children his age greeted him with open arms. He immediately felt at home in a caring church community. Zion's outstanding *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* embraced John Heitz on this visit, and memories of our congregation's warmth endured throughout his ninety-two years.

A Marine Corps veteran, John was interred in the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery, Saratoga. When he lived in Utica, John sang with the *Maennerchor's* men's chorus. He loved his family's native language. In the spirit of his passion, and our common heritage, I send a final message - *Ruhe in Frieden, mein Freund. Danke schön.*

Rest in peace, my friend. Thank you.

