

# Zion's News & Notes

*A Few Words From Pastor Janet*



**April  
2024**

## Zion Lutheran Church Zion News & Notes

Zion News & Notes is published each month by the church office. It includes news of upcoming events, thank you notes, archives, photos, and other items of interest. **Our newsletters are also available on our website:** [www.zionlutheranNy.org](http://www.zionlutheranNy.org)

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Something I have learned over the past few weeks is how many people's lives have been personally impacted by suicide. It's one thing to know that nearly 50,000 Americans die by suicide every year—making it the 10<sup>th</sup> most common cause of death~ but something entirely different to talk with people who have lost someone dear by suicide or to experience that grief oneself. Despite those high numbers, which sadly are only increasing, suicide is still a taboo topic in many cultures, even shameful. I know it's an uncomfortable topic and some believe it is better not to even bring it up, but silence only perpetuates the stigma. That discomfort and silence only push those thinking about it into further isolation.

My brother, David, died by suicide on February 29<sup>th</sup>. We, Dave's family and friends, were all shocked. It is a cliché, but none of us saw it coming. I wonder how many people never seek help because talking about suicide makes others feel uncomfortable? How many do see warning signs but don't reach out because it's too awkward to bring up?

People who die by suicide don't really want to die; they just want the pain to end. That is one thing I remembered from a long ago workshop on suicide prevention. So when I heard the news of my brother, I was gutted thinking of his pain and isolation. So I want to break the silence, especially when the church gathers.

In 25 years as a pastor, I have officiated at only one funeral for someone who died by suicide, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Even though he had PTSD, the cause of death was not mentioned in his obituary and the family did not want the word spoken in his funeral service. I respected their wishes, but believe it might have allowed for greater healing in acknowledging his pain.

And, more broadly, how many topics do churchgoers not feel comfortable sharing with others for fear of being judged? There is this idea that church people have it all together. There is this unwritten agreement we all live by that we bring our best selves to church. It's like Facebook—we only post the good things, the accomplishments, things to brag about. We've even cleaned up the Bible, skipping right over the incest and violence and any topic we don't think is appropriate for church.

My friends, God knows every sin, every pain, every weakness, every disease, every hurt, every failing. Let us acknowledge them and give them to God. On the other side of the tomb, we find the joy of resurrection.

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ~ Romans 8:38-39*

Your Co-worker in the Gospel,  
Pastor Janet



# April Announcements



## Coffee Hour

Please see the Coffee Hour Schedule posted in the narthex and sign up where you can so that we can keep the coffee brewing for you on Sundays! Feel free to bring in snacks, cakes, cookies, or whatever you'd like to coffee hour!

## Attention Zion Attendees

If you are new to Zion, or if you have been attending for a while and would like to learn more about becoming a member, please call the church office at: 315-732-4110 or email [office@zionluth.com](mailto:office@zionluth.com).

## Walking With Friends

The Walking Group has been meeting on Wednesdays at 2:30pm at the Target entrance of Sangertown. Call Kim Marscher (315) 794-6233 if you have questions.

## Zoom/YouTube

We are so grateful to all of our online participants for joining the services regularly! If you run into an issue or if you need help (*sometimes our WIFI isn't the best in the balcony*) please reach out to Isabel at any time during the service at: [ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com](mailto:ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com). You can also use the chat option via Zoom. Please be on the lookout for any incoming chat messages from Isabel during the service.

## New Hartford Public Library for Roy Senn

The New Hartford Public Library is accepting donations in memory of Roy Senn. If you would like to contribute, please make checks out to the New Hartford Public Library and write 'Roy Senn/Technology' in the memo line. Please send your checks directly to the NHPL.

## Call Committee

We are looking for members to join the Call Committee! Any Zion members interested in learning more and joining this committee are asked to speak with Council President, Curtis Pulliam.

## HOME COMMUNION

If you are interested in a visit with Home Communion, please call or email the Church Office, 315-732-4110 or [office@zionluth.com](mailto:office@zionluth.com).

Pastor Janet would be happy to distribute communion to those who are unable to get to church



## April Birthdays

Darlene Hill	2	Sarah Tompkins	11
Fran LaGase	8	Elizabeth Thompson	17
MaryMargaret Krukonis	8	Mark Thompson	18
Madison Midura	9	Diana Goewey	21
Lorraine Dowd	10	Ethan Myers	21
Shawn McLennan	10	Daniel Loomis	25
Sarah Hartman	11	Russ Holzberger	28



Visit Zion's Fair Trade Hutch after any church service!!

Chocolate bars, chocolate chips, coffee, teas, nuts, & the most delicious Palestinian olive oil still being produced!

Many thanks to Laurel McCurdy for all the time she spends on this ministry!

## APRIL WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
April 7	Wendy Stevens	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Ben Silva	
April 14	Mark Thompson	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Darlene Hill
April 21	Karen Toepp	David Grindle, SAM	Fran Holzberger	Jan Corn
April 28	Mark Thompson	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth	Jan Corn	

# Treasurer's Report

		February 2024 Treasurer's Report		
	Feb-24	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	\$ 14,047.39	\$ 33,043.39	\$ 25,583.32	\$ 7,460.07
Other Income	\$ 58.00	\$ 2,529.44	\$ 2,784.69	\$ (255.25)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,105.39</b>	<b>\$ 35,572.83</b>	<b>\$ 28,368.01</b>	<b>\$ 7,204.82</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 16,195.75</b>	<b>\$ 27,497.06</b>	<b>\$ 29,172.95</b>	<b>\$ (1,675.89)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (2,090.36)</b>	<b>\$ 8,075.77</b>	<b>\$ (804.94)</b>	<b>\$ 8,880.71</b>

## Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Fran King	Food Bank	Claudia King
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Claudia King
Doris & Walter Miga	World Hunger	Jeanne Gymburch
Carl Schmitt	Memorial Fund	Carole Grove
Mary Lou Millar	Memorial Fund	Carole Grove
Doris Hennings	Memorial Fund	Carole Grove
Roy Senn	Memorial Fund	Carole Grove
Mary Lou Millar	General Fund	Jeanne Gymburch
Mary Lou Millar	Missionary	Laurel McCurdy
Mary Lou Millar	Memorial Fund	Ted McCarthy
Carl Schmitt	World Hunger	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall
Mary Lou Millar	World Hunger	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall
Doris Hennings	World Hunger	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall
Jane & Bob Imobersteg	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:

# Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

**Thank you** for your prayers for Jim T., my brother, who has come through cancer surgery very well with no sign of it having spread.

Karen Toepp

**Dear Members of Zion,**

It has been heart warming to hear from so many of you. Though we are separated by miles, I still value your friendship. Being part of the music team with the choir was an important part of my life, and the memories live on. Thank you for the cards and good wishes.

With love,

Mary Senn

**Dear My Zion Family,**

It was a special treat to hear from so many of you to help celebrate my birthday. I miss being with you in person, but this was the next best thing :) Thank you, too, for sending me the monthly newsletter and weekly bulletin. I keep Zion's progress in my thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Diana Inserra

**Dear Zion,**

Your Mission Support, in addition to encouraging congregation vitality, is at work raising up lay and rostered leadership across the synod. Together, we celebrated five ordinations of pastors accompanied by the work of our Candidacy Committee. As we continue to walk this Lenten path together, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to each other and to the work God has called us to do. May the stories of transformation and renewal that have emerged from our collective efforts inspire us to keep moving forward with faith, hope, and love.

In Christ's love and service,

Bishop Lee M. Miller II



*We had seven services in the month of March! We couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you to everyone who attended services, signed up, participated in services, and brought food. Thank you to Pastor Janet, our supply pastors, and our supply organists for providing meaningful services, including Holy Week. Thank you to Laurel McCurdy and Wendy Stevens for reviewing our publications before we send them out!*

## Palm Sunday Memories



Sincere thanks to Bob & Bonnie Loomis for placing the order for the palms and palm crosses for Palm Sunday. This is their special tradition, and we appreciate it greatly! Pictured are Bob & Bonnie Loomis joyously holding their Palm Sunday palms and crosses on Sunday, March 24th.

## Zion Book Group

A group met on March 17th and put together a list of books (below) we might like to read and discuss. We'll meet on Wednesday, April 24th at 10-11:30am in the Fireside Room and decide the order and how we'll discuss the books.

Beverages will be available ☕ All are welcome. Please join us!

### Suggested books:

“*Inspired*” by Rachel Held Evans - a way back to faith “*The Shack*” by William P. Young - a novel about our triune God.

“*The Kingdom, Power and Glory*” by Tim Alberta - a study about the corruption of religion.

“*The Grace of Les Miserables*” by Matt Rawls - a Lenten study about the book and musical.

“*The Great Dechurching*” by Jim Davis and Michael Graham - 40 million people are leaving their houses of worship - why and what to do about it.

“*Messy Spirituality*” by Michael Yaconelli - life doesn't leave much time for faith.

# Book Group



Women of Faith—Men invited

**Everyone is invited**

**to a SPECIAL EVENT**

**at Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

**1640 Genesee Street in Utica**

**Saturday, April 20th from 10am–12pm**

Special guest, Rev. Ursula Meier, from Johnson Park Center, is leading this event. Rev. Meier will be connecting how the Holy Spirit is at work behind the scenes at their center with the five loaves and two fish philosophy.



*Many thanks to our friends at Trinity for planning the event and  
Our Saviour for hosting and providing the snacks & beverages!*



## *Special Events*



### **It is time to plan for Synod Assembly!**

**WHEN?** June 3RD & 4TH **WHERE?** Bethany Baptist Church in Syracuse.

Carole Grove is excited to attend this year and would love for someone to accompany her! We would like to get two Zion members **REGISTERED** to attend ASAP!!

There is a block of hotel rooms reserved and we would need to register soon to ensure a room(s). Please let the church office know if you are interested in joining Carole.

This year's theme is **"Loaves & Fishes."** Our challenge is to raise \$500. \$250 for a fish pond & \$250 for irrigation to grow grains for bread To make your donation, please use donation envelopes or write a check marked for World Hunger from now until Synod Assembly

**Lutheran Campus Ministry** invites you to its "Spring Music Festival and Basket Raffle," Sunday, April 21, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7248 Highbridge Rd., Fayetteville, NY 13066. Come and bid on creative baskets donated by the faithful from across Central Crossroads.

A \$5.00 entrance fee comes with an armload of raffle tickets.

**Basket donations are needed.** If you can donate a basket, please contact Chris Jones: 315.200.7624 or Patsy Glista: 315.796.2985 [paglista@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:paglista@alumni.nmu.edu)



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**Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY**

*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully  
discern God's call to help people  
to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.*

