



April
2022

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, a calendar, archives, photos and many other items of interest. Our newsletters are also available on our website: www.zionLutheranNy.org

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Editor: Sara Silva

Contributors: Members of the congregation

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Zion's News & Notes



A Few Words From Pastor Rick

The promise of Easter is not just for humankind. In Isaiah 65, God promises new heavens and a new earth, a whole new creation. Weeping will pass away.

Life will be abundant. God's people in Zion (new Jerusalem) will be filled with joy and delight. The whole world, even the animals, will be at peace. We will read Isaiah 65.17-25 as our First Reading on Easter Sunday.

What a precious promise this is during the war in Ukraine, with its massive destruction and unbelievable numbers of displaced peoples.

What a precious promise this is as we live in the midst of climate change and the loss of biodiversity – and why Earth Day on April 22nd is so appropriate during the Easter season.

What a precious promise this is for Christ's church seeking renewal, revitalization, and redevelopment.

The God we come to know and love and trust in Jesus Christ is a God of new beginnings, a God of life and resurrection.

The God who created the universe continues to create, and promises to recreate us and all life again and again.

God generously and unconditionally forgives our sin, as we repent of the wrong and the damage and the hurt we have done on one another and this beautiful, precious garden planet, and as we seek reconciliation with one another and change the ways by which we live.

God welcomes us back into God's mission to love, to care for, and to protect the miraculous life of all God's beloved creation and all humankind.

The gift of new life and resurrection begins as a tiny green blade of new growth, with faith in Jesus Christ risen from the dead. He is the first fruit, the beginning, of God's new creation. Upon his resurrection our whole faith and life together depends.

God's promise of new life and resurrection will be experienced this month at Zion in two particular ways.

Renewal, revitalization, and redevelopment of congregations always begins with discovery and new focus on their mission. The Abide process led by Pastor Lori Kochanski begins on April 3rd, and it will help us do exactly that. Please pray for and participate in that process. Be prepared to listen and to learn from one another. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Your Congregation Council also invited the Congregation Council of Trinity, Herkimer, to an initial conversation April 6th to learn more about each other, a possible first step that may lead to sharing a pastor, and put Zion on a financially sustainable path. Trinity has been without a regularly called pastor longer than Zion. After this meeting, the two Councils will discuss separately whether or not to continue conversations. Please pray for the leaders of both congregations.

No one knows exactly how these conversations will develop or their outcome. We can be sure of God's love and Christ's presence. We can expect surprises. That's why I am particularly drawn to this prayer from the close of Evening Prayer. Please pray with me:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's blessings!
Pastor Rick Klafehn

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers: Please see the signup sheet in the narthex if you would like to purchase Easter flowers to adorn the sanctuary.

Palm Sunday: Please join us for Palm Sunday at 10 AM! Please see the sign up sheet if you are able to serve as an usher, greeter, or worship assistant. Thank you!

Maundy Thursday: Please join us if you can for a 12 PM service on Maundy Thursday, April 14th. Please see the sign up sheet if you are able to sign up to be worship assistant, greeter or usher.

Good Friday: *Zion will not be having a service on this day.* Everyone is invited to join Our Saviour's service at 7 PM. Pastor Anita will be sharing the worship team folder and Zoom link with us.

Easter Sunday: Please join us for Easter at 10 AM! If you ordered flowers for the sanctuary, please take them home with you to enjoy on this day.

Worship Team: Please continue to pay attention to the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. Zion always needs your help to lead the services!

Weekly Bulletin: Zion has discontinued sending out weekly bulletins via USPS. Please let Sara know if you would like to continue to receive mailings. This is by request only. Thank you!

Women of Faith: "Join our three congregation Women of Faith for Bible study on Tuesday, April 19th at 7pm for session 3 of Let Us Pray. We will gather on Zoom and all are welcome. Copies of this session will be available on the table in the narthex. The Zoom link is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88449290425?pwd=RWFJTzRmSVM5K2JWMTdvRFA4UUd4QT09>
Questions - contact Patsy Glista."

Special Message from the Edmistons: Ben and I are moving from NY back to where we grew up in PA. His many health issues have made us aware of the fact that we need to be around family at this time. Our house will be going on the market in May and we hope to be in PA by the end of July. We would like to stay on your zooming Sunday services so that in some way we can be in touch with our many friends. Our new home will be an apartment over a two stall garage which is located in front of our daughter, Michelle's, home. It will be grand to be so close to family, and mom will be cooking all the meals. Over the past few weeks while we were here, Ben has been seen by 5 specialists whom we feel very comfortable with. All doctors and places for treatment are within a 10 minute drive from where we are living. The apartment is lovely, and I can work outside whenever I want to help Michelle in her yard. We will miss all of our friends in the Utica area, but this is the next step of our journey in our lives. If you would like to stay in touch with us, here are our contact numbers: Ben & Cheryl Edmiston, 160 Hostetler Rd., Johnstown, PA 15904, 814-410-3151.

It has been a pleasure to have prayed and shared Christian ideas with the Zion congregation. May you all find peace in these trying times. Hugs, Ben and Cheryl Edmiston

The Abide Process

“Abide” begins April 3, 2022!

This process, led by Pastor Lori Kochanski, assistant to the bishop, is designed to equip and accompany congregations in need of new ways of intentionally working together.

What to Expect: A process for congregations to identify needs and issues in the congregation and community. Then, work to develop measurable, actionable steps to address the needs identified.

General notes about the process: - Listening and asking open questions will be emphasized as we work together. - There will be homework in between each time we meet as a group. - Some of the steps will include gathering information from other sources and people who are not in the sessions, but may be helpful to the larger goals. - The process is about developing tools. At the end of our intentional time together in sessions, you will have new ways and renewed practices that will help you identify needs, implement best practices, and be able to work together. - Participation will encourage the kind of group thinking that keeps all the people of the community at the center of decision-making processes.

About the sessions...

Session 1: *(with the whole congregation)* Identifying any problems/conflicts/needs in the congregation

Session 2: *(with council, other leaders and other interested congregational members)* Determine insights around the identified problems/conflicts/needs

Session 3: *(with council, other leaders and other interested congregational members)* Develop measurable, actionable plan(s) to address potential needs

Session 4: *(with council, other leaders and other interested congregational members)* Prepare to implement plan(s) with the wider congregation. This session will include intentional learning about concrete tools for leaders in the congregation as you continue to work together.

Beyond the sessions...check in, as needed, to keep on track. Also...continue the lifelong practice of listening and adapting to new needs.

All pre-work is to be submitted by March 28th to Lori at: lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org

Zoom link for the April 3rd session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87663541554?pwd=MGFtWnp0YkRRWnhCcHptV0piQUtRUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 6354 1554

Passcode: 137209

One tap mobile +16465588656,,87663541554#,,,,*137209# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 876 6354 1554

Passcode: 137209

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Hill	2	Ann Eadline	17
Fran LaGase	8	Elizabeth Thompson	17
Mary Margaret Krukonis	8	Mark Thompson	18
Madison Midura	9	Diana Goewey	21
Abigail Schiller	9	Ethan Myers	21
Lorraine Dowd	10	Doris Hennings	23
Shawn McLennan	10	Daniel Loomis	25
Sarah Hartman	11	Russ Holzberger	28
Sarah Tompkins	11		

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Randy Richards	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Doris and Walter Miga	LDR: Ukraine	Jeanne Gymburch
Randy Richards	LWR-Ukraine	Jeanne Gymburch
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Sara Silva	Postage	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Laurel McCurdy	World Hunger	Linda Bennett

April Worship Team Schedule

Date:	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Ushers
April 3	Karen Toepp	Linda Bennett	Darlene Hill & Laura Hilt
April 10	Carl Schmitt— <i>Special Readings:</i> Wendy Stevens, Mark Thompson. One additional (male) reader is needed.	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Doreen Nicholls & Jeanne Gymburch
April 14		Fran Holzberger	Laurel McCurdy
April 17		Deb Murdock	Jeanne Gymburch & Laurel McCurdy
April 24	Wendy Stevens	Jan Corn	Darlene Hill

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: We are still looking for a second person to attend synod assembly. Please let Sara know if you are interested. (office@zionluth.com.)

Thank you Letters

Dear Mark & Our friends at Zion Lutheran Church,

Please allow me to express our most heartfelt thanks for your extremely generous contribution of \$1,325 to our organization. Your gift means so much and will assist us greatly in our efforts to provide for the individuals in our community whom we care deeply about. Although the pandemic forced us to suspend our services temporarily, we are now resuming our efforts to feed those in need of our assistance in this community.

Warmest regards & Best wishes,

Karen Ostinett, Board Treasurer, Your Neighbors, Inc.

Dear John and friends on the Endowment Committee,

On behalf of our KEYS kiddos, Dave and I want to thank you for your generous grant award of \$1,000 for our music therapy outreach programs for our KEYS kids. We are so honored and excited to partner with you again this year in our mission of smiles. Thank you for helping us give our beautiful KEYS families a break from cancer treatment and medical challenges to have fun and make music and memories together!

With our heartfelt thanks,

Colleen & Dave Bennett, KEYS founders

A note from the Council President

Zion Council members will hold a first joint conversation with the Council members of Trinity/Herkimer on April 6, 2022, that may lead to sharing a pastor. This first conversation will focus on relationship building through mutual introductions and sharing each congregation's strengths and needs and ministries in which our congregations excel or are excited about. This conversation may help illuminate similarities, differences, and potential compatibility in mission that would help call an effective pastor for both congregations. After this initial conversation, both councils will discuss separately if they desire to hold a second joint conversation.

These conversations with Trinity/Herkimer are exploratory, and no commitment has been made.

The Abide process will begin Sunday, April 3rd at 12:00 noon via Zoom. Pastor Lori Kochanski will lead us through this process that will help Zion examine its conflicts, problems and needs. In subsequent sessions, a step-by-step action plan will be developed and implemented. We strongly encourage your participation in this process.

In Christ's Service,

Linda Bennett, Council President

Treasurer's Report

		February 2022 Treasurer's Report		
	Feb-22	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 15,098.67	\$ 34,512.18	\$ 25,003.25	\$ 9,508.93
Other Income	\$ 2,837.30	\$ 3,354.75	\$ 3,407.08	\$ (52.33)
Total Income	\$ 17,935.97	\$ 37,866.93	\$ 28,410.33	\$ 9,456.60
Total Expense	\$ 18,717.86	\$ 28,171.41	\$ 29,018.08	\$ (846.67)
Net Income	\$ (781.89)	\$ 9,695.52	\$ (607.75)	\$ 10,303.27

In my 175th anniversary history of Zion Church, I stated that the Rev. Reinhold Kessler was the first “child of Zion” to become a Lutheran pastor. Recent research revealed otherwise. I’m delighted to stand corrected.

Adam Martin - brother of “Capitalist Henry” and “Adventurer Frederick” (re: last newsletter) - was a distinguished pastor, scholar, and teacher. Our congregation’s initial contribution to the ministry, he took a different path to the Lutheran pulpit.

Shortly after Martin’s arrival in 1852, he enrolled in Sunday school - at First Presbyterian Church on Washington Street in Downtown Utica. He knew that success in American colleges depended on mastering English. First Presbyterian offered an environment where Martin *had* to speak and think in English. He couldn’t experience this at Zion’s German church.

His family, however, was very active in our church and Adam spent *a lot* of time there. Pastor Andrew Wetzel, our church’s founder, became Adam’s invaluable mentor and friend. Martin aspired to become a Lutheran minister. Wetzel was the *only* Lutheran pastor in Utica. Martin was bright, promising. Wetzel was a scholarly, successful cleric. Bonding naturally occurred.

Pastor Andrew was respected in Central New York Lutheran circles. He served on the Board of Trustees of Hartwick Seminary, founded in 1797. Nineteenth century Hartwick also offered college-prep classes and accepted Adam Martin in 1853. In all likelihood, Pastor Andrew arranged for Adam’s admission.

Zion’s founder enjoyed strong Hamilton College connections. He tutored Hamilton students in Greek and Latin. The college offered Wetzel an honorary degree, but Zion’s humble founder declined, stating that others were more deserving. When Hamilton accepted Adam Martin in 1854, Andrew Wetzel probably penned a persuasive recommendation.

Martin enrolled at Hartwick Seminary after graduating from Hamilton in 1858. He interned at Zion during his Hartwick years and lived with the Wetzels. A newspaper referred to him as Zion’s “assistant pastor.” After graduation in 1861 and ordination in Rochester, the newly-minted minister answered his first call - at St. Mark’s Lutheran, Middleburgh, Schoharie County. While there, he revived a waning membership and stabilized finances. During his St. Mark’s tenure, Martin taught part-time at Hartwick and was awarded an honorary “Masters of Arts in Course” (A.M.) degree by Hamilton College in 1863.

Pastor Martin enjoyed a close friendship with Andrew Wetzel until Zion’s founder entered the church triumphant in 1880. They teamed for the wedding of Adam’s brother, Henry, in 1864. After our congregation enlarged its sanctuary in early 1873, services of rededication were held on July 27. Adam preached at an afternoon Sunday school assembly, and was liturgist for an evening English service. When Pastor Wetzel’s son, Edward, passed in 1875, Adam Martin gave the eulogy. He returned to Utica for Andrew Wetzel’s funeral in 1880.

During his Middleburgh pastorate, Adam met his future partner, Ann Eliza Sanford. They married in New York City on July 23, 1868. Ann’s father was New York State Supreme Court Judge Lyman Sanford. Her grandfather was William C. Bouck, New York’s 13th governor (1843-1844). Sanford and Bouck were on Hartwick’s Board of Trustees and both served as the seminary’s treasurer.

Adam and Ann raised one son: Sanford Bouck Martin (1870-1937), whose achievements mirrored his parentage. He graduated from Pennsylvania College (1890), Yale Law School (LL.B., 1892), and earned a LL.M., *cum laude*, from Yale in 1893. Sanford practiced in New Haven.

Adam Martin left Upstate in May 1865 to accept the presidency of Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, recently opened by the Wisconsin Synod. Andrew Wetzel’s son-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Ewald Giese (Matilda Wetzel’s husband), ministered in Wisconsin and, according to one source, may have influenced the synod’s choice. However, Martin was young, intelligent, energetic, and fiscally-conscious. Recommendations aside, these qualities had to impress the Wisconsin hierarchy.

To Martin's credit, Northwestern College's enrollment grew tenfold, academic buildings were erected, and contributions created a sustaining endowment. Differences between Adam and the synod, however, doomed his presidency. Martin advocated for bilingual instruction and a curriculum that offered non-theological majors, ideas contradictory to Wisconsin Lutheran thought.

He resigned in 1869 to accept a position as Professor of German Language and Literature, and Instructor in French and History, at Pennsylvania College/Seminary, Gettysburg. This institution of higher learning became Gettysburg College/Seminary in 1921. Pastor Paul Joslyn, who shepherded Zion from 1978 to 1994, was a Gettysburg alumnus.

Adam Martin enjoyed a distinguished career at Gettysburg. *American Lutheran Biographies* noted that the professor "was a frequent contributor to Lutheran Church periodicals." In 1882, he translated Luther's *Large Catechism* for the *Book of Concord*, published by Gettysburg Professor Henry Eysler Jacobs, D.D. Muhlenburg Lutheran College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, recognized Martin's academic achievements in 1887 by conferring on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. In 1890, the Hamilton College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa awarded Adam an "alumnus membership."

After they retired from Gettysburg in 1898, the Martins moved to New Haven and resided there until their deaths. Adam Martin entered the church triumphant in 1921, Ann in 1926. They rest in New Haven's Evergreen Cemetery.

Adam's brother, Henry Martin, is buried in Forest Hill, Frederick in New Forest Cemetery, Utica. Three brothers, three divergent lives, united for eternity ...

Correction: Last month's article stated that Our Saviour Lutheran Church was created by the merger of Redeemer and St. Paul's congregations in 1926. The union occurred in 1966.



The Reverend Professor Adam Martin, D.D., at Gettysburg College.



St. Mark's Lutheran, Middleburgh, was Martin's first pastorate.



Confirmation rites were held on Palm Sunday in Old Zion Church on Fay/Cooper Streets in West Utica. The event was rescheduled to Pentecost after we moved to New Hartford. This photo shows the old church's interior on Palm Sunday, 1922, with the class sitting in the front pews.

100
years
ago!!

Central Crossroads Lenten Challenge

March 6th – April 10th

Diaper Drive

As a synod we will be collecting...
Diapers (Baby & Adult), Pull Ups,
Diaper Cream, & Wipes.



Synod Goal: 50,000 Diapers

Benefit Local Charities...
Diaper Banks, Food Pantries, etc

As a Synod, we will be collecting diapers (baby and adult), pull ups, diaper cream, and wipes. Our Synod goal is 50,000 diapers. This collection will benefit local charities. Please bring all items to Zion by Sunday, April 10th!



Ed Nelson and Christina Merritt wanted to share a photo of their daughter, Tracey Ann. Tracey's birthday was on January 9th. She turned two years old! Happy Belated Birthday to Tracey!



Meet Zion's newest members, Joe Schmidt & Mary Margaret! Joe & Mary Margaret were recognized and welcomed as new members during worship on March 13th.

Mary Margaret Krukonis, a native of Utica, is a registered nurse, specializing in psychiatric care. A talented musician who is prolific on many instruments, Mary belongs to a number of area Irish musical groups. In addition to music, Mary devotes her time to painting, fiber arts, and studying women of the Bible.

Joseph Schmidt, a native of New York Mills, has spent more than three decades in the field of advertising and public relations. When not performing Irish music in local ensembles, he can usually be found woodcarving and cooking. With a lifelong interest in history, Joe also devotes time to research and lecture on various historical topics.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 French Road

New Hartford, NY 13413

CONTACT INFO:

Phone: 315.732.4110

Fax: 315.732.0067

Email: office@zionluth.com

Website: www.zionlutheranNy.org

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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.*



World Hunger: HOLY COW—THE “UDDER” JOY OF GIVING TO ELCA WORLD HUNGER. As we anticipate gathering for Synod assembly, our Synodical Hunger Team is once again encouraging your congregation's support for World Hunger by meeting a challenge goal of \$500 between now and June to purchase a HOLY COW!! We want you to experience the “UDDER” JOY OF GIVING. Your gifts help sustain the livelihood of farmers across the

globe, where your ELCA World Hunger dollars are at work in more than 60 countries including the U.S. and right here in the Upstate NY Synod. One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all. Please consider making the goal of \$500 or more a priority of your congregation's stewardship between now and the assembly (*June 5th-7th*) when you can add your gift to those of other congregations.