



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words from Pastor David

February
2020

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

E-mail: office@zionluth.com

Website: www.ZionLutheranNY.org

Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church New Hartford, NY

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For my final article, I'd like to not only thank you for the honor and privilege of being your pastor for the last three years and seven months, but also encourage you to continue moving forward. It's rare that an Intentional Interim Pastor gets to make a return appearance, and I must say that the second time around has been even more fun than the first. Over this time, we've accomplished a lot, and many changes have come to Zion. Many new people have joined our faith community, and Zion is a different congregation today than it was when I arrived, and that is good. There are signs of growth and vitality all around!

Yet, while we have accomplished a lot, there is still more work to be done. Indeed, if we are to be faithful to our call as Jesus' disciples, more work will always lie before us until Jesus returns. First and foremost, I would encourage Zion to continue to open itself up, engage with, and participate in, the Utica/Rome area. We frequently remind ourselves that Jesus commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as our self, but we forget that Jesus also gave us The Great Commission (Matt. 28.19-20), "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus sends us out into the world to engage with it on its turf, its "home field"! We have started down the path of more openness and engagement by initiating and building relationships with the Muslim community, the congregation at Hope Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, the Nepali congregation, and the YMCA. Each of these in its own way and to a different degree has the potential to significantly enrich Zion's life and ministry.

Second, I would encourage Zion to continue to develop its transportation and disabilities ministries. We received \$2,000 seed money from Zion's Endowment Fund to support the transportation ministry. "Thank you" Endowment Committee! It would be wonderful if this ministry would be more fully embraced and supported by the congregation overall. Likewise, the disabilities ministry has started well and has been very meaningful for everyone involved. Therefore, I would encourage others to experience this moving and inspirational ministry.

Third, I would encourage Zion continue to examine and implement the ELCA's Social Statements, such as *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* and *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*. These two are especially timely and relevant to our context in the Utica/Rome area. Fourth and finally, even though we have made progress regarding advertising and marketing Zion, much more can and should be done. Sara has many good ideas and is a great resource. Her gifts and talents should be enlisted and utilized.

Zion, in my opinion, is a too little-known gem in this area. One that fills a great need. You are a light in the darkness. Let your light shine brightly so that others may see you and your good works, and thereby give glory to God in heaven and have the opportunity for others to experience Christ's love, grace, compassion, and inclusion through you. Or to use a different metaphor, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." May you, the good people of Zion, more fully take up/on the role of "laborer" sent out into the harvest field of Utica/Rome to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and his ministry.

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power, comfort, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit always be with you and within you. Amen.

In Christ's love,
Pastor David



Announcements

CHOIR

Zion's choir will rehearse at 9 AM on Sunday, February 9 and February 23, and sing for the services those days.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Everyone is invited to attend Our Saviour's *Ash Wednesday* services February 26 at 2 and 7 PM.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING

Monday, February 3 at 5 PM. This is an important planning meeting. Please plan to attend and if you have suggestions, please let the committee know: Gloria Cifonelli, Wendy Stevens, Mary Senn, Jeanne Gymburch, Diana Inserra, Jim Schieble, Matt Aceto, Bob and Bonnie Loomis, Kim and Jim Marscher (chair). Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The pantries get food from Syracuse, and WIC covers diapers, so they need toilet paper & toiletries. Let's take a couple months to focus on that need.

WELCOME 2 WORSHIP (DISABILITIES MINISTRY)

There will be a service at Zion on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5:30 PM (snow date March 24). Please help support this ministry by attending the worship services and/or joining the committee for people with disabilities - see Jim or Kim Marscher, Doug Vibbard, Dan Rodahan, John Coveleski, Lisa Lucas-Myers, or Pastor David for details.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:30 AM. We'll be discussing and voting on numerous important items including changes to the Constitution and adoption of the Bylaws. Copies of both along with the Annual Report booklet are available now on the table in the Narthex. Please see the sign up sheet if you'd like to bring a refreshment, as this day is sadly also Pastor David's last day at Zion.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB AT ZION

Keep your eyes open for Book Club news in the bulletin. We would love suggestions from the congregation for the club. You can email them to Fran Holzberger at fholzrholtz@gmail.com.

ZION'S COLLECTION OF CANS & BOTTLES

We need a new volunteer! We collect nearly 500 cans & bottles within a few weeks and we need someone to return them for us! One person would be great, but two would be better! Give us a call if you can help. Please continue to bring your cans/bottles to Zion to support the Utica Food Pantries! The bins are in the coat room downstairs.

RETIREMENT TEA

There will be a Retirement Tea for anyone available during the day - you don't have to be retired - on Friday, February 14 at 2 PM with tea, coffee and treats. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can attend.

Speak in such a way that others
love to listen to you.
Listen in such a way that others
love to speak to you.

Andrew Wetzel's Parish Remembers Zion at Christmas

Zion's founder, the Rev. Andrew (Johann Andreas) Wetzel, was baptized and raised in St. Oswald's Lutheran Church, Weilimdorf, Germany. While the ever-expanding metropolis of Stuttgart has absorbed his native village, a former farming community, Wetzel's church stands strong in 2020.

St. Oswald's sent Zion some beautiful Christmas gifts. The church's historian, Edeltraud John, assembled the package. Our connection with Edeltraud evolved through Julia Krauss, Pastor Wetzel's distant niece, who spoke at our 175th Anniversary Service. In recent years, St. Oswald's congregation received both Zion history books, a copy of Pastor Nolte's 1922 historical work, and photo scans from our church's past, including Christmas celebrations. They were particularly interested in pictures of our holiday trees, since Andrew Wetzel introduced the custom into Central New York in the 1830s.

The gifts from our German brethren reflected theirs, and Zion's, heritage. Every year, St. Oswald's members hand craft ornaments for their *tannenbaum* (Christmas tree). This custom was practiced in our church during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the ornaments St. Oswald's members make are five-pointed stars, fashioned from the bark of birch trees that grow on church property. Zion received twelve of these beautiful creations. Edeltraud John also included several postcards that depicted her church and contemporary Weilimdorf. She sweetened the gift with a box of German chocolates. We are reserving these delights for a future children's message.

In a related note, Julia Krauss and her grandfather, Helmut Maier, have recently finished a biographical sketch of Andrew Wetzel. We can look forward to receiving a copy! Three years ago, Julia sent us Helmut's history of Weilimdorf, which included several pages about Andrew Wetzel. We are blessed to enjoy this thriving connection with our founding pastor's native parish!



St. Oswald's hand-crafted stars

Andrew Wetzel's Parish Remembers Zion at Christmas



St. Oswald's Church, Weilimdorf



St. Oswald's nativity crèche

February Birthday's

*Happy
Birthday!*

George Thompson	1	Ellen Smith	16
Ken Tompkins	2	Kristen Burson	19
Matt LaFave	4	Cheryl Edmiston	19
Suzee Rowland	5	Ronna Kelly	19
James Daly	7	Carter Fancher	19
Judy Schmitt	7	Jim Millbower	19
Thomas Bender	10	Leland Buell	21
Barbara Coleman	10	Martha Pughe	24
Annie Wadsworth-Grove	12	Diana Inserra	26
		Ted McCarthy	27

Fair Trade & more

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM ZION'S FAIR TRADE MINISTRY!

Just in time for February 14th, you can find a new treat at our Fair Trade Hutch—**ORGANIC DARK CHOCOLATE ALMOND & SEA SALT CHOCOLATE BARS!** A vegan, soy- and gluten-free creation, this bar balances fudgy chocolate with a handful of lightly toasted whole almonds and sea salt. It's sure to be a new favorite. Another thing you can be sure of when you purchase chocolate from Equal Exchange: no child labor was involved in its production.

Child labor and forced labor are big problems on cocoa plantations in West Africa, where most conventional chocolate originates. Equal Exchange is committed to organic and fully traceable supply chains, and they have long sought the opportunity to partner with co-ops in West Africa where their model can support the work of creating important change. Now, with the introduction of the "Total Eclipse Bar," that dream is a reality! Small scale farmers in Togo supply organic and fair trade cocoa beans that go into this delicious chocolate. Enjoy this bar knowing that you are helping to make meaningful change in the chocolate industry and in the world.

IT'S A GIRL

For anyone interested in purchasing (or donating) baby items for Ed Nelson & Christina Merritt's daughter, **Tracy Ann**, Zion will be collecting items and will present them to mom & dad the week of February 10. Some items the family is looking for are: Huggies diapers size 1, pacifiers, baby wipes, breast pump, Similac neosure formula, warm clothes, sleeping gowns, onesies.

Any questions, please call Christina 315.225.5109.



Roof Replacement

On May 12, 2019, sixty-two members attended a properly called congregational meeting where a motion was introduced and unanimously passed allowing the Church Council to spend \$68,600 to replace the roof at Zion. During discussion on the motion, the congregation was informed that the council had requested bids from three roofing companies and decided to recommend Dennis Padula & Sons Roofing and Sheet Metal Company. Padula was the lowest bidder, the most responsive to questions, and has done other roof repairs for Zion. In order to pay for replacing the roof, the Council will spend \$40,000 of memorial funds, and borrow \$11,600 from the Building Fund and \$17,000 from the Mission Investment Fund (MIF). The Council has decided to go with an "in house" loan of \$28,600 instead of borrowing from an outside source, thereby saving the congregation thousands of dollars in interest. It has also recommended a repayment plan and period for the \$28,600 (this amounts to approximately \$350 per "giving unit," i.e., a person or family) that will run from June 2019 to Dec. 2021. Each person or family is being asked to pledge to give an additional \$10.50 per month (\$2.60 per week) over and above their regular offering. If people would like to give quarterly, semi-annually, yearly, or make a one-time payment, that is certainly okay. In addition, those who have the financial ability to do so are encouraged to give more than \$350 in order to offset those who do not have the means to give the entire amount. FYI – people may continue to use their regular offering envelopes or use the green envelopes for special offerings. Either way, they should mark the extra amount they are giving as "Roof" or "Building Fund."

The next worship service with the OPWDD is Tuesday, March 17. Volunteers are needed and are asked to arrive by 5:15 PM for the 5:30 service.



Zion will host our third worship service for people with developmental disabilities on St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17, in our Fireside Room. Volunteers are needed to help greet, join in the worship, and socialize with our guests. Volunteers are asked to arrive at Zion by 5:15 PM for a short training session. Staff with the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, including Dr. Lisa Lucas-Myers, will be available to explain the intent of the service and how to help. The event begins at 5:30 with guests and staff arriving. The worship service, with lots of music, runs from 5:45-6:15, followed by social time that ends at 6:30. Please support Zion's new ministry by attending.

Worship Team & Christian Education Schedules

Greeters	
Feb.2	
Feb. 9	
Feb. 16	Evon Pinkos
Feb. 23	

Ushers	
Feb.2	Laura Hilt & Caryn Carlson
Feb. 9	Laura Hilt & Laurel McCurdy
Feb. 16	Evon Pinkos & Darlene Hill
Feb. 23	Bob Lambe

V O L U N T E E R

Worship Assistants	
Feb.2	Lisa Lucas-Myers
Feb. 9	Carol Blackburn
Feb. 16	Bob Loomis
Feb. 23	

Communion Assistants	
Feb.2	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Feb. 9	Alfred & Lynn Moretz
Feb. 16	Bonnie Loomis & Darlene Hill
Feb. 23	

PRAYERS FOR CHERISHING CHILDREN

February 2020

Loving God, thank You for hearing our prayers.

Ages - Birth—two years

I pray that the baby will find comfort in difficult times, soothing words and hugs, and a warm lap for cuddling when sick. **In Jesus name, Amen.**

Kindergarten—Grade 2

I pray that this child will be provided with nutritious meals each day, a quiet place to sleep and a safe home. **In Jesus name, Amen.**

ZION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Students: K – Grade 6 Sundays: 11:15 – 12:00

February

- 2) Lesson/Activity
- 9) Christian Craft
- 16) No Class (Winter Break)
- 23) No Class (Winter Break)



March

- 1) Lesson/Activity
- 8) Lesson/Activity
- 15) Benchmark/Craft
- 22) Lesson/Activity
- 29) Lesson/Activity

Youth Christian Education

Youth, 7th grade through 12th grade, are invited to meet in the youth room following the 10am service on Sundays to learn and grow in their Christian faith.

Thank You Letters

Thank you, dear people of Zion -
Thank you for you gifts given to your synod,
received by ELCA World Hunger in September 2019. Thank you for spreading light and love to so many in this season of hope.
In Christ,
Robin Brown
Mission Funding Director

To the Congregation -
Thank you for the bagels that have been provided to us in 2019. We've received 632lbs which, according to the CNY Food Bank, has a value of \$1,087. Thank you for being a partner.
Sincerely,
Ruth Ward/Seeds of Hope

Dear Zion -
Thank you for your support for the Johnson Park Center. You are a part of the rebuilding of lives and revitalizing hope in our community. We truly appreciate your gift.
Rev. Dr. Maria A. Scates, D. D.

Pastor David,
Thank you for **EVERYTHING** you have brought to Zion. Thank you for your friendship and for ALL THE MANY LAUGH'S we've had in the office. I will miss you!
-Sara



Thank you to Jennifer Pierce & Matt LaFave for taking the time to purchase Zion an external hard drive, and for explaining the process to me. I've taken hundreds of photos with Zion's camera and those photos have been stored on the SD card, but now they are not only safely on our new external hard drive, but they are organized, which is very important. The new drive holds 10,000 photos!
-Sara



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Zion Lutheran Church

A **BIG** thank you to Matt LaFave for offering his photography skills to Zion during the month of November! Matt took photos of members and church guests so that we can update our church directory, (*available soon.*) Great job, Matt!

Bible Fun

12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL
PLUS 2 SONS OF JOSEPH
AND THE 12 DISCIPLES OF JESUS

> WHEN THE HOTURDRCAMEHJ
ETOOKHRISHPLAASHERCA
EATTHEETAOBLHGWITTM
HTHETAPSO MSTLCESHEOE
SWAFINDI WATHPANTOTLS
HEPHRAIMESMIHSAVSEAB
ERAWGD FERLYDESSISRER
EDDETOEOATTHIISPEAZO
SNSMOVENU LUBEZRE LWET
IATOHYOU EHB EFORD EEAH
IPILIH PVESUFFERRUH FTE
OR IOTEISLLYHABUJT ONR
NUIHS HSALWNOPT EOSAGJ
ETITMATTHEWTAE GHEAMO
BIWRNUNTILTHE RSNMEIH
UISAFULLFILMENTOAISN
ENMBTHEKINGDNIMAJNEB
ROMOFGODTOIRACSISADUJ

REUBEN
SIMEON
LEVI
JUDAH
DAN
NAPHTALI
MANASSEH

GAD
ASHER
ISSACHAR
ZEBULUN
JOSEPH
BENJAMIN
EPHRAIM

ANDREW
BARTHOLOMEW
JOHN
PETER
JUDE
THOMAS

MATTHEW
JAMESTHELESS
JAMES BROTHER² JOHN
PHILIP
SIMON
JUDAS ISCARIOT

THE EXTRA LETTERS ARE FROM LUKE 22:14

Thank you to Bob Loomis for our monthly dose of Bible fun!

Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Gloria Cifonelli	Building Fund	Kerstin Soykan
Pastor David	Lutheran Care Min.	Irma Muehlenberg
Pastor David	Missionaries	Laurel McCurdy
Andrew Daniel's 3rd Birthday	World Hunger	John & Carol Blackburn
Carole Grove & Patsy Glista	Your Neighbors	Linda Bennett
Don & Wanda Gregory	Missionaries	Laurel McCurdy
Harry & Helga Morrison	Superbowl-Youth	Carol & John Blackburn
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy

NEW MISSIONARIES FOR A NEW DECADE!


On February 1, 2020, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church will become covenant sponsors for the Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester, missionaries in Zambia. Through missionary sponsorship, we all grow as a church – together. Our missionaries need our prayers, support, and gifts to succeed in their work. From the Endowment Fund, Social Ministry received \$1,000 that has been sent to the ELCA Global Church. On January 12, our church began a three- month campaign to raise more funds to support the Troesters. You can give by using a “My Designated Gifts” green envelope or the green envelopes in the pews: write “Missionaries” on the “Other” line and on the memo line of your check. Please join in God’s amazing work by giving today!

Pastor Deborah Troester (pronounced: Trust-her) serves as the Facilitator of Leadership Development with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia. She and Joe live in Lusaka, the capital city. They have been there for just over a year. The Troesters formerly served as ELCA East Africa Regional Representatives based in Tanzania. Prior to that, they served the church in the Central African Republic, where Deborah taught at the Theological School and Joe worked with the church’s water project. He has over 40 years of experience working with water, mainly in developing countries. Joe and Deborah both speak German, Spanish, French, and a little Swahili. Deborah is an ordained pastor (Presbyterian) who enjoys her ecumenical relationship with the ELCA. Their daughter Christa is a student at the University of Southern California, working on a double major in Film/Television Production and French.



hello february

Help is needed to set up, serve, and clean-up for our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. The sign up sheet is in the narthex, please sign up where you can. Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
2 10am 4 Epiphany 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 6pm Super Bowl Watching Party	3 12:30 Al-Anon 1pm Book Club 3:30 Mutual Ministry Team 5pm Worship & Music meeting	4 6:30pm Bible Study	5 10am Bible Study 12:30 Al-Anon	6 5:30pm Walking Group	7 12:30 Al-Anon 6:45-10pm Rail-road group	8 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
9 9am choir rehearsal 10am 5 Epiphany 11:30am Annual Meeting 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	10 12:30 Al-Anon	11	12 12:30 Al-Anon	13 5:30pm Walking Group	14 12:30 Al-Anon 2pm Retirement Tea Happy Valentine's Day!	15 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
16 10am 6 Epiphany 11:15am choir rehearsal 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	17 12:30 Al-Anon 6:30pm Council mtg.	18 5:30 Young families group	19 12:30 Al-Anon	20 5:30pm Walking Group	21 12:30 Al-Anon	22 11-12:30 Nepali Youth
23 9am choir rehearsal 10am Transfiguration of our Lord 1-3:30pm-Nepali worship 5pm Contemporary Service	24 12:30 Al-Anon 5pm People with Disabilities planning mtg.	25	26 12:30 Al-Anon Ash Wednesday	27 5:30pm Walking Group	28 7pm Coffee House	29 

physically I'm here
Mentally,
I'm In A Galaxy
Far Far Away



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

Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

Twitter: Zion Lutheran Church @ZionLutheran630

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



**'Tis the Season for
Volunteering**