



Zion's News & Notes

A Few Words from Pastor Bill

February has arrived, the briefest month of the year. Sometimes, however, it may seem to be the longest, especially if Central New York's weather prevents doing some things we might otherwise enjoy doing.

A short month, but in church time it is an important month...even a month of contrasts.

Most of February's Sundays are in the time of Epiphany. These weeks remind us how the reality of God with Us, Jesus, is revealed. Back in January, we were reminded of our own Baptisms as Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River. In the weeks that followed, again and again, we are witnesses to the multitude of ways in which Jesus proclaims to all of creation the love-filled desire of God for all that God made.

Some of the Scripture texts for this time of the church year are very familiar – others may be less familiar. I find some of these words to be comforting and challenging. I also discover in them a map displaying what ministry and mission are all about, not just in the past, but today.

For example – reflect on the Scriptures for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (I know that this is actually in January). Micah reminds us that we are to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God”. Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth that wisdom is found in what some would consider weakness...the cross. And Jesus shares in His Sermon on the Mount blessings that may sound today to be against prevailing wisdom or culture.

The Time of Epiphany concludes with the revelation of Transfiguration. It concludes on a mountain top....not a place to remain, but a stopping point before heading down the mountain and getting to work in the world.

In the Transfiguration of Jesus, we encounter the bright and brilliant light of God. It is only a few days later in our church calendar that we plunge into the time of Lent on Ash Wednesday, and are reminded that we “are dust and to dust we shall return”.

February is a month of contrasts, and blessings!

I look forward to Bishop Lee Miller visiting Zion on February 5th. We are blessed to have a Bishop who is deeply concerned and involved in all that we are and all that we do.

I also look forward to several of Zion's younger members being welcomed to the Lord's Table for the first time.

And, I give thanks for the faithfulness of Zion's members who will be installed as members of the Congregational Council and Officers for 2023.

Thank you for this time we have to journey together. I look forward to times we will gather in Worship, in-person and virtually, because, from God and each other, we are blessed with strength for the journey.

God's Peace,
Pastor Bill

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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HAPPY

Valentine's

DAY



February Announcements

Worship & Music: The next meeting will be on February 12th following the service.

Ash Wednesday Service: February 22nd, at 12-noon.

Souperbowl Sunday: Please see page five for more details!

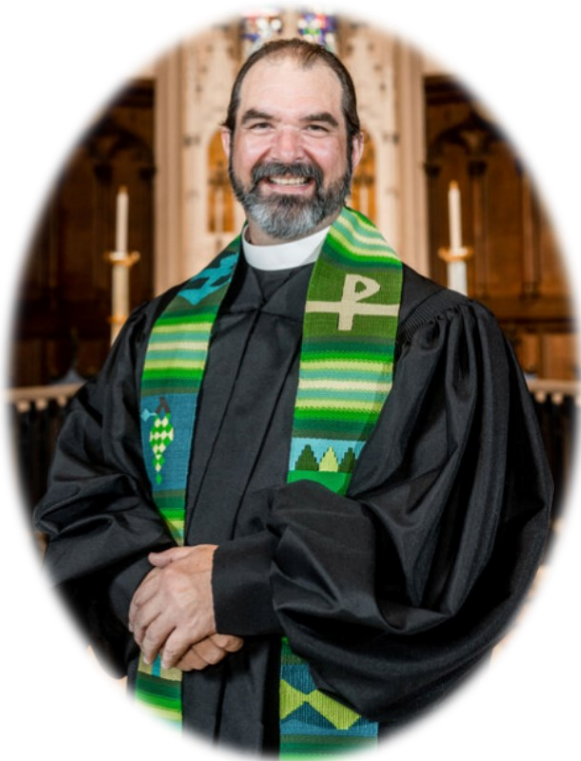
Inclement Weather: When a Worship Service at Zion is cancelled due to weather, it will be announced on WKTV, in an e-mail from the Church, and on the Church website.

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith from Our Saviour, Trinity, and Zion will next gather at Zion on Sunday, February 12th at 12noon. Our program, *Mary and Elizabeth– 2 Women, Vulnerable Like Us*, will be facilitated by Rev. Anita Mohr and Pam Donovan from Our Saviour. We will explore the story of Mary and Elizabeth and wonder about how women coming together invite us into relationship with God and with each other. We will explore our vulnerabilities and the ways God encourages us and protects us.

All women are invited to join us. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided by the women of Zion. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Amazon Smile: On February 20, 2023, the Amazon Smile program will be discontinued. “To help charities that have been a part of the Amazon Smile program with this transition, we will be providing a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February.” (So feel free to use this shopping option until then!)

Abide: The Building Analysis and Internal Structure and Systems Working groups will meet the **third Sunday** of each month following worship.



Potluck Lunch at Zion with Bishop Lee

We hope you will join us for a potluck lunch on February 5th to welcome Bishop Lee Miller. This will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

We happily welcome your dishes to pass.

Thank you in advance for joining us!

February Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Ken Tompkins | 2 | Ronna Kelly | 19 |
| Matt LaFave | 4 | Jim Millbower | 19 |
| Suzee Rowland | 5 | Sandra McGlynn | 23 |
| Judy Schmitt | 7 | Diana Inserra | 26 |
| Thomas Bender | 10 | Ted McCarthy | 27 |
| Annie Wadsworth-Grove | 12 | Joe Schmidt | 27 |
| Ellen Smith | 16 | Jan Corn | 28 |
| Cheryl Edmiston | 19 | | |

From the Pen of Mae Parker

The house is quiet now. No sounds of laughter remain. No family close together again, Santa no longer controls his domain.

The ornaments are put away, in boxes for next year. But what if next year never comes? Then Christmas might not be here.

For time is moving faster and faster, the signs are all around to see. If you choose to ignore the signs of God, then the end will come suddenly.

Read up on all the prophets that the Bible offers you, so you'll be ready when he comes. Be one of the chosens few.

We know the end is coming fast, the planet cannot last. With global warming, and the rest.

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

| In Memory of: | To: | Given by: |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fran King | Memorial Fund | Chuck & Shirley Carlson |
| Ed Grove | Your Neighbors | Don & Wanda Gregory |
| Fran King | Memorial Fund | Claudia King |
| Vivian Deckman | Zion Food Ministry | Laura Hilt |
| Sally Ann Hettinger | Zion Food Ministry | Diana Inserra |
| In Honor of: | To: | Given by: |
| Carole Grove | World Hunger | Laurel McCurdy |
| The Silva Family | World Hunger-Advent Appeal | Bob & Bonnie Loomis |
| Gloria Cifonelli, Millie Angevine, Patsy Glista, Carole Grove, Jeanne Gymburch, Bob & Bonnie Loomis, Jim & Kim Marscher, Megan Free, Rich Bostick, Laurel McCurdy, Pastor Bill Preuss & Marilyn, Sara Silva, Wendy Stevens, Mark & Nancy Thompson | World Hunger | Linda Bennett |

Council President's Report

I greatly appreciate the support of our congregants in our last Abide session with Pastor Lori Kochanski on Sunday, January 15th. Many participated in working groups that began following worship. The Building Analysis and Internal Structure and Systems groups will continue to meet monthly following worship on the third Sunday of each month. The next meeting of these groups will take place on Sunday, February 19, 2023. The group members are accountable to each other to work on agenda tasks outside of their monthly meetings. At the monthly meetings, the results of the agenda tasks will be shared. New members are welcome to participate in these working groups at any time.

There is a third working group that will meet monthly with Trinity/Herkimer. Pastor Lori Kochanski will facilitate the first meeting of this group with Trinity/Herkimer on Monday, January 23rd via Zoom. We will meet via Zoom through March, and in April we will meet in-person at a neutral place. This group, the Building Analysis group, and Internal Structure and Systems group will all report to council each month.

I'm most thankful for the leadership and guidance Pastor Lori Kochanski has provided in our Abide process. I wish her God's best as she uses her gifts and talents in a new position she's starting in February. We've been blessed with her help and leadership this past year.

I also wish Pastor Bill and Marilyn God's best as Pastor Bill will be retiring at the end of February. They have both been a blessing to our congregation and have helped us look ahead toward the future.

This is my last newsletter article as council president. It has been a privilege to serve you. I look forward to seeing the good things God has for our future together.

In Christ's service,
Linda Bennett, Council President

The 2023 Offering Envelopes—Important Notice

The envelopes are still behind schedule and are expected this month.

In the meantime, please use a green envelope (*located on the table in the narthex*) for your offerings. Please give us a call if you would like a few envelopes mailed to you.

Thank you for your patience!

February Worship Team Schedule

| Date: | Worship Assistant | Pastor | Greeters | Ushers |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Feb. 5 | Patsy Glista | Pr. Bill | Jan Corn | Doreen Nicholls & Jeanne Gymburch |
| Feb. 12 | Wendy Stevens | Pr. Bill | | |
| Feb. 19 | | Pr. Bill | | |
| Feb.22 Ash Wednesday | | Pr. Bill | | |
| Feb. 26 | | Deacon Patsy Glista | Lind Bennett | |

Treasurer's Report

| | | December 2022 Treasurer's Report | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | Dec-22 | Year to Date | Budget | Over/Under Budget |
| Income | | | | |
| Giving | \$ 16,880.85 | \$ 177,286.52 | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 27,286.52 |
| Other Income | \$ 8,580.19 | \$ 24,560.38 | \$ 20,442.00 | \$ 4,118.38 |
| Total Income | \$ 25,461.04 | \$ 201,846.90 | \$ 170,442.00 | \$ 31,404.90 |
| | | | | |
| Total Expense | \$ 15,009.63 | \$ 166,273.43 | \$ 170,342.00 | \$ (4,068.57) |
| | | | | |
| Net Income | \$ 10,451.41 | \$ 35,573.47 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 35,473.47 |

Souper Bowl Sunday

We will once again continue our Zion Souper Bowl tradition with the 2023 Souper Bowl collection on Sunday February 12. Bring your cans of soup or monetary donation to the 10 am worship service at Zion. If you would like to contribute but cannot attend the Sunday service, you can drop your cans off at Zion during the week. All soup donated will support local food ministries. A monetary donation can be sent in with your normal offering designated for "Souper Bowl" or "Food Bank". Thanks for helping out our community!

Our February Women of Faith Bible Study will be on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. All are welcome to attend, no preparation required. Our program presented by Kim Marscher, will be about Hildegard of Bingen, a 13th century Christian woman known as a spiritual leader, holistic healer (*some of her practices are still in use today*), musician, artist, writer, and mother superior of a Benedictine nunnery. She stood up to the Pope and might have influenced Martin and Katharine Luther. We'll get to hear some of her music, participate in a faith Devotional she wrote (*translated from German*), and hear a brief overview of her remarkable life. What remarkable women influenced you, and who do you consider remarkable now?

Topic: Women of Faith Bible Study—**Time:** Feb 27, 2023 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87269860254?pwd=ODB3M0l2alhhdEdrVjNhWG1MlVjZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 6986 0254—**Passcode:** 254405

One tap mobile +16465588656, 87269860254#, *254405# US (New York)

January 22, 2023



A special guest, Douglas Andrew Sloan, worshipped with our congregation on January 22nd. "Doug," Pastor Andrew Wetzel's great-great-great grandson, is retiring from a lengthy career in international finance and currently pursues a divinity degree at Bethel Interdenominational Seminary, St. Paul, MN. He chatted with members during a delightful coffee hour following the service.

Zion's founding minister's daughter, Elizabeth, married Dr. Hugh Sloan in 1875. Since then, every generation of the Sloan family has used the name "Andrew," to honor Pastor Wetzel.

Greetings from St. Oswald's in Germany



Edeltraud John, historian of St. Oswald's Church in Weilimdorf, Germany, sent us this beautiful photo of their sanctuary and Christmas tree. Unfortunately, it arrived too late for the January newsletter. Pastor Andrew Wetzel, Zion's founder, was raised in this church.

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Dear Zion congregation,

Some of the families took a few pictures, and we wanted to share them with you so you could see the joy on their faces. Jane was overwhelmed with your generous donation of gift cards. I know she depends on them throughout the year to lend a helping hand to families trying to make ends meet. (*Please see page nine for a photo collage.*) Thank you again for caring so much about other people in our community. Only nine months until you hear from me again asking if you want to participate in the 2023 Christmas project!

Janet Furgal

Volunteer at Thea Bowman

Dear Friends,

The Lutheran Homes Foundation and Your Neighbors Inc. would like to thank you for the \$440 donation. I would like you to know how much your contribution will help make a difference in the culture of our organization.

With much appreciation,

Lenora D'Apice, Chief Strategy Officer

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your grant of \$1,150 to our *Music Outreach Program*! We were delightfully surprised at the extra funds above the amount we had requested. Thanks to your support, we will be able to provide not just 20 music therapy sessions, but 23! We are so grateful for your belief in our mission of smile.

With our heartfelt thanks,

Colle and David Bennett, KEYS Founders

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Utica Center for Development, I would like to thank you for your very thoughtful and generous donation. Your commitment to helping the Veterans we service in need within our community is sincerely appreciated and will go towards homeless prevention programs.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts,

Vincent Scalise, Executive Director

To my friends at Zion,

I want to thank the friends at Zion who sent birthday cards for my 90th. They were greatly appreciated and helped make it a great day.

Most sincerely,

Bob Loomis (90 3/365)

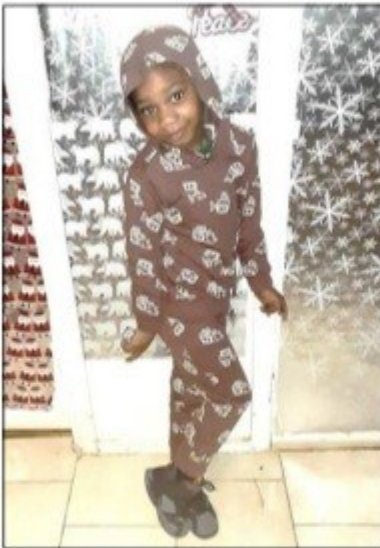
Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

I am writing to thank you for the donation of \$150.00 you made to Grace Church Food Pantry. It's donations like yours that make our missions possible!

Kind regards,

Valerie Montalbano/Administrative Assistant

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications



Thank you for
helping to
brighten the
holidays for so
many of our
families.



Thea Bowman Families—Recipients of Zion's Angel Tree Gift Cards.



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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.*



Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Ash Wednesday

Worship at Zion on
Ash Wednesday
February 22nd,
at 12-noon

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0