

From your church council co-presidents:

With the arrival of Pastor Rick Klafehn as our interim pastor, **we will be discontinuing our weekly leadership letter.** Instead, we will be sending a monthly newsletter with a few words from Pastor Rick, a return to Zion's pre-COVID communication protocol. Our weekly announcements will continue in Sunday's bulletin as well as the Service of the Word mailing. **The information for accessing each Sunday's 10:00 AM service via Zoom, our YouTube channel, or our Facebook page will remain the same for each week from here forward. Please keep the following information handy for re-use each week:**

**To attend our weekly Sunday service via Zoom,** please use the following link each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> , Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#.

Our service is also available for viewing on Zion's **YouTube channel:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbfCe2z7bIPvxp62lA>

The Service of the Word will continue to be sent via email for our online participants, as well as the US Postal Service each week for those who don't use the computer to receive their Zion information.

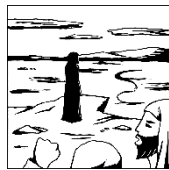
We hope the leadership letters sent each week since the arrival of the pandemic have been helpful to keep our congregants connected and apprised of developments at Zion. We welcome your feedback and invite you to share that with either of us or at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Wishing you peace and good health,

Mark Thompson and Laurel McCurdy, church council co-presidents.

***Please Note:** Pastor Rick will be having a meet & greet via Zoom following the service on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>! Please stay on Zoom after the service.*

Zion Lutheran Church  
4 Epiphany



January 30, 2022

WELCOME TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S AT HOME OR ONLINE SERVICE!

PRELUDE: *Near to Thy Heart*, by John W. Peterson Kelli Watson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **We confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *Christ, Be Our Light*, vs. 1 & 5 Hymn #715 –Kelli Watson

**Vs. 1** Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**Vs. 5** Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** *Jeremiah 1:4-10* Bible Pg. 1168

*Psalms 71: 1-6* Bible Pg. 906

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 13:1-13* Bible Pg. 1786

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



**Gospel:** *Luke 4:21-30* Bible Pg. 1596

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** *-Deacon Patsy Glista*

Grace to you, peace and love from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our second scripture reading this morning is from Paul's first letter to the early church in Corinth. Verses 4 - 13 are frequently used at weddings. People in general are drawn to the text - maybe because it is at first brush, what I would call, 'a feel good' text. It talks about love after all. This text hangs on my wall at home, lovingly cross-stitched by my mother and gifted over 30 years ago. I wonder how many couples ever go back and read and reflect on this scripture text after the wedding. While many choose to have it read at their marriage, Paul did not write his first letter to the Corinthians for someone's wedding, nor do I plan to talk about marriage today.

I have always been intrigued by the first verse, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." It makes me wonder if Paul used these words in an attempt to gain the attention of the congregation's members. The vision that comes to my mind is my young son marching through the house with a kitchen pot and wooden spoon; the clanging and banging never failed to get attention.

What do we know about the people of this early mission church in Corinth? A port city on the Mediterranean Sea, Corinth had often over the years clashed with Rome. Ultimately Corinth was destroyed in 146 BC by the Romans and then laid uninhabited for nearly a century until 44 BC when Julius Caesar, probably understanding its importance as a seaport to the Roman Empire, re-founded the city. It grew rapidly and by the time of Paul's visit, Corinth was the largest and most flourishing center in south Greece. Compare its growth to that which took place in our nation after World War II, when housing blossomed almost overnight and manufacturing boomed. Surrounded by grain fields, olive groves and grape vineyards the city also had great diversity. Its residents included sailors, businessmen and government officials. The bi-annual Isthmian games in honor of the sea god Poseidon were held in Corinth as well, bringing Greeks from far and wide to the area. A booming community, but also a place of much diversity and often societal corruption.

Paul comes to this community preaching the 'good news' and Jesus' message of salvation, encouraging the people to set aside their differences and talking about love that bears all things, believes all things and never ends. Obviously, there were at least some to whom this message resonated as an early mission church had been established. But there were disagreements. Several church leaders had ministered among the people including Paul,

Peter and Apollos. There were those in the congregation who were loyal to Paul, those who believed loyalty to Peter was key and those who were Apollos' loyal followers. Think how all this displaced loyalty may have divided the congregation! Additionally, the members weren't especially good about following the guidelines of the church, maybe missing weekly worship, not joining in the communion meal - we don't really know specifics. Basically, the influences of their surroundings pulled them in many directions so that their loyalties weren't first to Jesus Christ and their faith community; much like the world we live in - especially over the past two years. All sorts of things have pulled us collectively as a nation and individually, from one direction to another - vaccinate or don't vaccinate, speak out about increased violence or just stay away from it are two examples that come to mind. The happenings around us, whether we agree or disagree with them pull us and compete for our time, sometimes taking us away from or causing us to act in ways that may not reflect the love of Christ.

So, Paul begins, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." His message speaks of love, but not the love of flowery poems and roses; it is a message of love shown by actions; love demonstrated, at times, by walking into the weeds. Having in the previous verses laid out all the various kinds of gifts for ministry that God gifts believers with, Paul now moves to help the Corinth church and us understand what the true focus of the church is, 'works of love,' or as Paul says 'a more excellent way.' In the first three verses of our text, Paul indicates that being able to speak in tongues, having prophetic powers, or all knowledge, or faith sufficient to move mountains, even the willingness to give away all our possessions, gains nothing if we do not have love - we are just a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. He wants the church members to understand that sharing the love of Christ is the most important thing, and it is a love we put into action.

In the next verses Paul shares with us what love must do or not do instead of what love is. He doesn't describe it as an abstract, feel good, word, but rather a word of solid action. In Greek there are several different words for various kinds of love, unlike our English where 'love' is the only word, so Paul's description is helpful in broadening our understanding of what it means to love as faithful followers of Christ. There are actually 15 action verbs in total in Paul's message – 7 of these describe what love must do – 'be patient, to be kind, to rejoice in the truth, to bear all things, to believe all things, to hope all things,' and 'to endure all things.' The other eight action verbs have to do with what love should not do – 'not to envy, not to boast, not to be arrogant, not to be rude, not to seek its own way, not to be irritable, not to be resentful, and not to rejoice in wrongdoing.'

I don't know about you, but for me on any given day, any one of these action verbs can provide a challenge, whether things love is to do or things love is not to do. We just went through the holiday season – even waiting for your computer to work quicker while on-line shopping has potential to create impatience, to say nothing of finding out what you want is on backorder. A few years back Norm and I, returning home from Colorado, got stuck in Detroit for an extra day amid freezing rain and sleet. Like thousands of others, we were tired, sometimes hungry, uncomfortable and cold. That is an experience that can easily lend itself to being irritable, and even rude; one of those hard to 'bear all things' experiences. I observed plenty of rude people as we were booked, rebooked and rebooked again, hoping to get on a flight home. But I also saw lots of patience – pilots unable to fly their planes helping out at gate desks to answer passenger questions. And there was the gentle, kind voice of the wheelchair transport person who waited over 45 minutes with us outside in the cold trying to get us on a hotel shuttle.

What would it look like for us to act in love? I don't think it looks like the casually spoken, "I love Bagel Grove bagels," or "I love my favorite TV show, MASH." What would it look like to be patient, even when one has waited too long at the doctors; to be kind, even when the cashier at the store is grousing at us; to rejoice in the truth, even when we don't feel joy; to bear all things, even when a situation feels unbearable; to believe all things or to hope all things even when the situation feels hopeless? This is a feeling in our hearts so strong about sharing the love of Christ that we are willing to speak up about injustices we see. Maybe it is feeling Christ's love so strongly that we can listen patiently and hear with love the views of those who think differently than we do, rather than talking over the person or insisting that our view is the only right one.

Paul's more 'excellent way' of love in all things is a tough pill to swallow but, we have that spoon full of sugar to help it go down – the love of Jesus Christ. His message to the Corinthians and to us today, is that no matter how we came to be a part of the faith community and no matter our differences or diversities, we all believe in and follow the same Jesus Christ; we all receive the Holy Spirit in our baptism, share in the bread and wine and participate in Christ's work. And no matter the diversity in our communities or different ideologies, we know that we have a God who unequivocally loves all of the human race, all of creation. God's love isn't measured by any human standard. It is love that never ends or as Rev. Matt Skinner says 'a love that never falls down, never stumbles, never chokes up and won't flop.' The answer when we don't hear what we want to hear isn't to throw the person over the cliff, or 'under the bus,' but rather to speak and act in

and with love. God's love is the very same unconditional love that chose the widows, the weak and foolish, sick and the lame; a love so strong that God sacrificed his only Son for our salvation. First and foremost, it is Jesus Christ's example of love in action that the Corinthians, and we, are to follow - not Paul, Apollos or the latest social media or newest technological promotion.

God's love encourages us and calls us forward into the unknown and at times into murky waters where, like Jeremiah, we may prefer not to go. It is a love that calls us to follow Jesus' example and willingly seek to love and care for each other. In a world seemingly filled with arrogance, selfishness, violence, poverty and hostility, we are called to act in love with patience, seeking to grow in faith, hope and love – in our relationships with one another, in our actions and with our Lord and Savior. Colin Raye has a song called Love Remains. It speaks to the stages of life that at times are filled with tears and sweat, shared joy and shared pain. At the end of each verse is the line, 'through it all love remains.' This is the good news of the love of Christ – through all of our trials, tribulations, good times and bad, times of prosperity and times of pandemics, God's love remains ever constant and unconditional. As we continue our Epiphany journey in the light of Christ, may God's love be the flame that shows the way and guides our words and actions. Amen.

*ANTHEM: Highland Cathedral, by Michael Korb and Ulrich Roever -Kelli Watson*

## APOSTLES' CREED, *(Please stand, if able.)*

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. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

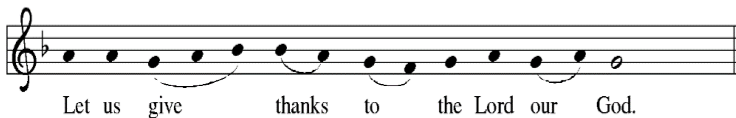
Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, Jackie and Skip, Sara, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## 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.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION,

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### SENDING

#### Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing, vs. 1 & 3 Hymn#543 -Kelli Watson*

**Vs. 1** "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

**Vs. 3** "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

#### Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *The Solid Rock, by William B. Bradbury -Kelli Watson*

**\*FEBRUARY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE\***

DATE:	WORSHIP ASST.	GREETERS	USHERS
2/6	Carl Schmitt	Evon Pinkos & Carolyn Dzwonkas	Deb Murdock
2/13	Wendy Stevens	Deb Murdock & Jan Corn	Doreen Nicholls & Jeanne Gymburch
2/20	John Blackburn	Zoom service only	Zoom service only
2/27	Fran LaGase		

***February Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!!***

Ken Tompkins	2	Kristen Burson	19
Matt LaFave	4	Cheryl Edmiston	19
Suzee Rowland	5	Ronna Kelly	19
James Daly	7	Jim Millbower	19
Judy Schmitt	7	Leland Buell	21
Thomas Bender	10	Sandra McGlynn	23
Annie Wadsworth-Grove	12	Martha Pughe	24
Sheron Miller	13	Diana Inserra	26
Ellen Smith	16	Ted McCarthy	27

***Given to the Glory of God***

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
John Joslyn	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Louise Wurster	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
John Kratzert	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Loved ones	World Hunger	Diana Inserra
Gene White	Memorial Fund	Karen & Lloyd McLennan
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Karen & Lloyd McLennan
Peggy Joslyn, on the anniversary of her joining the company of saints	Memorial Fund	David Cleaver-Bartholomew
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Sister & brothers	Lutheran Care Ministries	Evon Pinkos
Debbie Murdock	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch
Katie Marscher	Roof Fund	Linda White
Carole Grove	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Ellen Smith	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Linda Bennett	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Millie Angevine, Gloria Cifonelli, Jen DeWeerth, Patsy Glista, Ed & Carole Grove, Jeanne Gymburch, Jack Henke, Janet Hoover, Bob & Bonnie Loomis, Jim & Kim Marscher, Katie Marscher, Laurel McCurdy, Anita Mohr, Debbie Murdock, Sara Silva, Wendy Stevens, Mark Thompson, and Kelli Watson	World Hunger	Linda Bennett

**2021 Annual Reports are now available.**

We will be emailing the report this week. If you would like a hard copy, please pick one up on Sunday at church. Those of you who receive snail mail will be receiving a copy via USPS. If you would like to pick up a copy during the week, you can do so Monday-Thursday from 9:30-1:30. Thank you!



## Women of Faith Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00pm (Zoom) – Let Us Pray.

Women from Zion, Our Saviour and Trinity, Herkimer are invited to join in this three-part Bible study from the Women of the ELCA Bible Studies, that begins February 22. We'll meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday for 1 hour. Let Us Pray speaks to how and for what purpose we are called into prayer (*Session One*); the practice of prayer (*Session Two*); and the results of prayer (*Session Three*). Patsy Glista will be our facilitator. We hope you will plan to join us. The Bible Study materials can be accessed virtually by signing up for Gather e-newsletter at Free Bible study: "Let us pray" - Gather Magazine. The Zoom link and other related information will be shared with all prior to the first session. If you need a paper copy of the study, please let Patsy know and a copy will be made available.

Sunday, March 27, 2022, 12:00noon – Faith, Sexism and Justice, A Call to Action.

Women from the three area Lutheran congregations will gather in person at Zion for a brown bag lunch and program around the ELCA social statement, Faith, Sexism and Justice, A Call to Action, adopted at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Rev. Anita Mohr will facilitate our discussion on this social statement that relies on the Gospel promise of abundance, justice, and new creation in Christ to name the ways the sins of patriarchy and sexism harm all people, particularly women and girls, whatever their age or racial or gender identify. Watch for more information in the March newsletter.

## Souper Bowl 2022

We will once again continue our Zion Souper Bowl tradition with the 2022 "Drive-Up" Souper Bowl on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 12 noon. Bring your cans of soup to the main entrance at Zion. Just pop the trunk or open the hatch for a "touch-free" drop off. 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 our community!

**HELP CONTINUE A ZION TRADITION OF HELPING LOCAL FOOD MINISTRIES**

**ZION'S  
DRIVE-UP  
SOUPER  
BOWL  
OF CARING  
2022**

**SATURDAY  
FEB. 12  
10 AM  
'TIL  
NOON**

**BRING YOUR CANS OF SOUP TO ZION'S MAIN  
ENTRANCE FOR A TOUCH-FREE DROP-OFF**