

July Newsletter
Leadership Letter for the Week of June 21st – 27th

To our Zion Family,

Sunday mornings have been very special for me over the past 15 months, providing a chance to connect with church friends, even if only by Zoom, when so much of the week felt a bit (or a lot) isolated. This past Sunday brought more of that sweet Sunday morning feeling, as we had at least five members of our Zion congregation back in the sanctuary for the first time since the pandemic arrived. Pastor Janet hit another home run with her wonderful sermon based on Mark's gospel (Ch. 4: 35-41) of Jesus calming the storm. The reading was so fitting given our trials and tribulations of the past year. Pastor Janet's sharing of her white-water rafting experience fit perfectly, with so many metaphors built into her story that dovetailed with the gospel. I'd encourage you to re-read Janet's sermon from last week's leadership letter—another masterpiece! Our opening hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, played beautifully by Kelli Watson, was yet another piece of Sunday's service that worked like hand in glove. For those with an internet connection, get your hankies ready- (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjcSpCSUjdk>). I look forward to seeing more and more of you back in the sanctuary as you feel ready.

Sunday Services

We continue to offer our Sunday services in a variety of ways, including in-person, via Zoom, livestreamed on our YouTube channel, recorded on Zion's Facebook page, and via the written service of the work. Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth will be taking some time during July and August for vacation, time with family, and to recharge her engine prior to the start of the upcoming academic year. Rev. Janet Hoover and Deacon Patsy Glista will be leading our services from the sanctuary on most Sundays during these months. There are three upcoming Sundays—July 4th, Aug. 1st, and Aug. 22nd—when we do not have a supply pastor available for our Sunday services at Zion. On those Sundays, Rev. Anita Mohr, pastor at Our Saviour and our transition pastor while we search for our next minister, has graciously invited Zion congregants to attend services at Our Saviour (10:00 AM on Sundays). These services will also be offered on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. As of this writing, those attending the Our Saviour service in person are asked to continue wearing masks due to several congregants with high health vulnerabilities.

Rev. Jen DeWeerth will be presiding at this Sunday's 10:00 service at Zion. A baptism will also be part of the service.

To join the upcoming **June 27th service by Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#. If you are joining us on Zoom, please be sure you are on mute and that your video is turned off from 10 AM when the service commences until it ends and the "Joyful Chaos" begins.

To join the service **by Livestream on our YouTube channel**, you can do so by visiting our page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtfCe2z7-bIPvxp62lA>

The Service of the Word is included later in this leadership letter.

Updates and Information

COVID Protocols: those attending last Sunday's service in person or remotely noticed the removal of several COVID safeguards. The barriers in front of the supply pastor and the worship assistant have been removed. Bibles and hymnals have been returned to the pew racks. Singing, while masked, continues.

At the June 14th meeting, the church council decided to postpone acting on the TF recommendation allowing fully vaccinated congregants to forgo masks while at church. There were very strong sentiments expressed by council members on both sides of this issue. The majority of council members were "on the fence" about how to proceed, but when forced to decide "yea" or "nay" on mask wearing at the present time, council decided to maintain the mask requirement for the moment and seek additional opinions. **We have scheduled an open Task Force Zoom meeting on July 6th at 7:00 PM. We invite all members of the Zion family to attend and express their opinions on this very contentious issue.** The Zoom link for this meeting will be provided in next week's leadership letter.

Technology Consultation- Katie Marscher, Zion's technologist, met with a consultant this past Saturday to review Zion's current technology capabilities and our plan for future broadcasts. Our goal is to make remote worship a high quality experience for those who attend in that way. The consultant will be providing us with an assessment of what we can accomplish with our current equipment and make recommendations for potential additions.

Work day to be scheduled for physical plant projects—the Property Committee will be scheduling a work day on an upcoming Saturday to address some of the needs for our building and grounds. Look for a work detail date in upcoming leadership letters.

Thank you to all those who have stepped up to volunteer in helping to staff the Sunday services as worship assistants, greeters, and ushers. The sign-up sheets for July are now posted on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. We appreciate your help with our Sunday services.

Thank you for your continued support and generous contributions to help us carry out the mission of Zion—*"God's work, our hands."*

We have been through a great deal since the pandemic arrived last March. While many positive changes have taken place, we are not finished. The masking issue is one such example. I genuinely hope this issue will not divide us further. Please pray for our congregation, that we may find a way to resolve this difficult issue as a loving and caring community. Plan to attend the July 6th Task Force meeting to help us find a solution that works for Zion.

Peace to all,
Mark Thompson, church council co-president

Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
Pentecost



June 27, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Andante Amoroso*, by Kornel Hollossy -Keli Watson

HOLY BAPTISM *Autumn Celeste Espinal*

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Great is Thy Faithfulness, vs. 1 & 2* Hymn #733 -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions thy fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Vs. 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-33

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: -Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

This morning I want to talk about the Gospel reading from Mark that we heard, about the unnamed woman who is healed of her socially isolating hemorrhage by touching Jesus, and the unnamed daughter of Jairus who is restored to life by Jesus. These are complex stories full of meaningful details and parallels, but I just want to **focus on three things we learn about God from the interactions that Jesus has with this woman and with this girl and her family in these desperate situations.**

First, Jesus, as always, cares little about propriety or purity, but always puts love and compassion before legalism. Jesus responds to the request of the important synagogue leader; his daughter requires healing. However, he gives just as much importance to this unknown, untouchable woman who is unclean and, for 12 years has not only suffered physically, but was socially “dead.” He is touched by her, and therefore he has become unclean. But shockingly, he does not take offense and he does not criticize her boldness or her breaking of social norms and hierarchies. Instead, he calls her “daughter,” bringing her back into the life of the community, welcoming her into social and family life again. Legalism, purity laws, social norms matter nothing to Jesus compared to love, and that’s because God has no standards. Grace, by definition, flows to everyone, and that unconditional love means the most to people who have been excluded, called unclean, or who just feel unworthy.

Second, Jesus disproves the myth of scarcity by enacting the gospel of abundance. Think about it: for this loving father of a 12 year old girl near death, every second counts. He is frantic in his plea. Jesus must come to save his child quickly, quickly. But Jesus stops in the midst of the crowd, and takes the time to find out who touched him. And then listens to her story; she tells him "the whole truth." Imagine how this felt to Jairus. Jesus is putting his child’s life at risk to talk with this socially unworthy, hopelessly cursed person. And then Jairus' worst nightmare seems to come true - they waited too long and now it is too late. It would seem that Jesus had a choice - rescue the girl or deal with the woman. That's scarcity thinking. *Jesus heals both.* These two stories smashed together in a healing miracle sandwich tell us that what God is doing in our lives is not a zero sum game. When it comes to God’s love, there is more than enough. Jesus acts out the gospel of abundance, destroying the myth that God’s love, hope, and life-giving power are scarce resources.

Third, Jesus’ compassion is personal and intimate. At first it seems that Jesus simply has a “power” that can be claimed, that sort of radiates from, and which he only impassively notices has gone out of him. But that is just the beginning of the story of Jesus’ encounter with the brave, healed woman. We see that Jesus does not stop at being touched. He listens. He cares about her whole story. *He opens himself to a relationship with her by calling her daughter.* Likewise, when Jesus goes with Jairus to his house after they’ve been informed that his young daughter is dead, he accompanies a grieving father, the longest walk of all, even if they were only a few houses away. And there, he steps right into the excruciating grief that fills the room, and he reaches out his hand to touch the body. Jesus lives deeply and compassionately with a bleeding woman, with a grieving family, with our physical, failing bodies, and so does God. God is not the unmoved mover; God is close to us, and feels what we feel, and there is nothing that we are - broken, bloody, damaged, ostracized, even dead - that God will not touch in order to heal and comfort us. And we learn from Jesus in this story that God’s deep love brings life and community, healing and wholeness, where we have seen only despair, desperation, and death.

Now, after these stories about the daughter of Jairus and the woman Jesus calls daughter, I want to say a word about the baptism of this beautiful daughter of Steve and Christina, Autumn Celeste. These parents have no idea what is ahead for their child—none of us do when we become parents. And so they are constantly balancing their hopes and dreams for her with their sheer terror through prayerful faith in God, as we parents do. And, in the midst of all that, the joy and fatigue, the deep joy and the constant worry of raising a child, we announce today that Autumn is loved not just by her parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, but by God. God loves her not *conditionally or according to social norms, but unconditionally.* She is loved *without limits*, because God’s grace has no beginning and no end and knows no bounds. She is loved not just from above and at a distance, but *close up and personal* by a God who is intimate, physical, and near, just like parents changing a diaper or hugging their little child who runs to them after a nightmare, seeking comfort.

This is the good news we proclaim: that every child of God is welcomed, we are embraced, and loved, and, in our worship, we seek to make that good news visual for all to see. One of my favorite quotes comes from Marjorie Thompson, who says, “In baptism, God opens the door to the family house and says, ‘welcome home, my child!’ In the Eucharist, God brings us to the dinner table and cries, ‘Eat! Eat! I made it especially for you!’” Jesus embraced an untouchable and called her daughter, welcoming her into the family. And we shower Autumn with the water to show that God showers her with love and welcomes her home. Jesus restored a daughter to life and made sure she had something to eat. We are invited to eat at Jesus’ table together, a meal that shows reconciling love is the final word over death. You know how they say that the moment you have a child, you “forever wear your heart on the outside of your body,” and “your heart is now walking around in the world?” If there is anything we can learn from Jesus’ day with the bleeding woman and the family of a dying child, it is that *Jesus is God’s heart outside God’s body, and we are all God’s heart walking around in the world.* God is not protected

from the risk, the suffering, the pain, the aches we bring God. And yet, God comes to us, bears our burdens, heals us, restores us, feeds us, and takes delight in us. Welcome to the family, little Autumn. We are daughters and we are sons; we are all the children of a God who loves unconditionally, boundlessly, and intimately. Amen and Amen.

ANTHEM: Communion, by Nicholas-Jacque Lemons -Kelli Watson

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick. Surround them with your unwavering presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

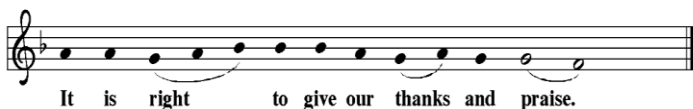
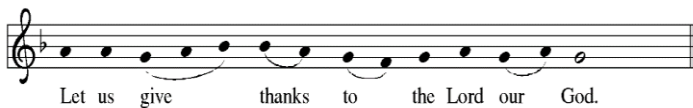
We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Autumn Celeste and her family on the day of her Baptism, that they all know how much God loves and cherishes all of them now and always. Lord, in your mercy, **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, comfort for the family of Claudia Trad, Carole, Gail, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Claudia & Fran, Ed and family, prayers for Michael Gilleece and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **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,

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #871 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good, the author of creation! O God of love, you understood our need for your salvation. With healing balm our souls you fill; all our lament with peace you still. To God all praise and glory!

Vs. 4 All who confess Christ's holy name, give God the praise and glory! Let all God's saving pow'r proclaim; give God the praise and glory! Cast ev'ry idol from its throne; God is the Lord and God alone: To God all praise and glory!

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Poco Allegretto, by Cesar Franck, arr. by Bryan Hexford -Kelli Watson*

July Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!!

Katie Marscher	1	Matt Aceto	19
Sara Silva	3	Benjamin Stevens	21
Jack Lambe	5	Robert Stevens	22
Shirley Morrison	5	Janet Bagnall	22
John Aceto	10	Chuck Carlson	22
Kim Marscher	10	Evon Pinkos	23
Jon Pardee	11	Wendy Kowalczyk	25
Devin Millbower	13	David Schiller	25
Emily Murdock	16	Rochelle Jensen	28
Paul Owens	16	Beth Dubeck	29
Fran Holzberger	18	Donna Cardillo	30
Laura Inserra	19		



The 2021 Altar Flower chart is now in place on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Anyone interested in fresh altar flowers, please sign at the proper date on the calendar and call Sara or Gloria at 315-735-8077.



Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Gene White on Father's Day	Memorial Fund	His family
Gene White	Memorial Fund	Karen & Lloyd McLennan
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Pastor Janet Hoover	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch

	May 2021 Treasurer's Report			
	May 2021	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 10,303.75	\$ 72,566.00	\$ 68,291.68	\$ 4,274.32
Other Income	\$ 3,180.07	\$ 15,026.26	\$ 12,165.82	\$ 2,860.44
Total Income	\$ 13,483.82	\$ 87,592.26	\$ 80,457.50	\$ 7,134.76
Total Expense	\$ 12,120.36	\$ 64,206.95	\$ 91,748.35	\$ (27,541.40)
Net Income	\$ 1,363.46	\$ 23,385.31	\$ (11,290.85)	\$ 34,676.16

*****We would like to highlight in our summer newsletters the hard work that all of our children & young adults have been doing during these past 15 months of COVID. If you wish to share your child's efforts, please send in a picture (optional) and a note to Sara. We want to celebrate all the good news of our church family. Thank you!*****

Congratulations, Students!!



Congratulations to Isabel Silva for graduating 8th grade with High Honors! She also received the President's Award, and excellence in achievement awards for Social Studies, and Technology. Isabel had an interesting two years in Middle School with 11 months on Zoom, and 7 months in person. But she did a great job, and we are so proud of her! Isabel will be going to a different school in a different city, so she will be in what is considered Middle School for another year. She is a little "iffy," but I know that she will be great and meet new friends in no time!

From the Pen of Mae Parker

Thy grumbled when it was cold
They grumbled when it was not
They grumbled when the day was short
They grumbled when it was not

They grumbled when the sun was up
They grumbled when rain they did not lack
They grumbled when the rain was gone
They grumbled when it didn't come back

They grumble when the sun was high in the noonday sky
They grumbled when the sun went in, they didn't understand why

They grumbled when the food was sparse
They grumbled when they had enough
They grumbled when life was easy
They grumbled when life was tough

They grumbled about most everything
Until their life was done
And then they who grumbled
Realized they had missed the one

For Jesus came to set us free
If we will only see
That grumbling about his gifts
Is not the way to be
So turn your eyes and life toward the one
Who can satisfy your needs

And you can help one another's soul be the one to plan the seeds