

June Newsletter

To our Zion Family,

This past Sunday we celebrated Pentecost. In her sermon, Rev. Jen DeWeerth reminded us that Jesus didn't leave us alone when he returned to His Father, but rather that we were blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, our *Advocate*, to be with us. **This Spirit unites us**, providing a path for reconnecting, especially important as we return from the pandemic. **The Spirit give us hope**, "comforts and provides companionship, and connects us as the community of God's people, breathing life into the body of Christ." And finally, Rev. Jen reminds us that **the Spirit "Breaks Ancient Schemes**, breathing new life into us. Stirring us from placidness to break old ways that were not working,... luring us into the future that God dreams for us and giving us the courage to make bold decisions that we will arise together from valleys of old injustices and bondage. Calling us from tomorrow into the beloved community of joyous feasting for all people." May we move ahead with courage, hope, and with a sense of unity, knowing the Spirit, our Advocate, is with us always.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

This Sunday, May 30th, our Sunday Service will be offered remotely via Zoom, and live streamed on our YouTube channel, and through the written Service of the Word, found later in this letter. **Our June 6th service will be offered in-person in the sanctuary**, along with the other ways just listed.

To join the May 30th 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/UCWzOtbCe2z7-bIPvxp62IA>

Updates to our In-person Worship Protocols

We will continue to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and sanitize/encourage frequent hand washing when in Zion's facilities, including the sanctuary.

We will no longer be taking temperatures or asking the health questions when you arrive at the entrance. If you are not feeling well, we ask that you stay home and view the service remotely.

We will continue reciting the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the response to the Prayers of Intercession, and all other refrains aloud and together as a congregation.

We will be singing (with our masks on) aloud and together.

Collection baskets will remain at the entrance/exit doors of the sanctuary.

We will NOT be sharing the sign of peace with physical contact.

Please allow for social distancing when you exit the sanctuary. Take everything with you—tissues, papers, bulletins—when you exit at the conclusion of the service.

We will continue sitting in alternating rows to allow for social distancing given that we can easily do so with the number currently attending in-person services.

For those who would like, fellowship following the service is now permitted. We will be using the Fellowship Hall on the lower level to start and will notify you when we will return to the Fireside Room.

Other Announcements and Updates

The **Upstate New York ELCA Synod Assembly** will be taking place remotely on June 3rd-5th. A new bishop for our synod will be elected. Laurel McCurdy and Mark Thompson will be serving as Zion's representatives.

The Rev. Ursula Meier is asking for **volunteers to pack boxes of food** and/or help at the food giveaways at **Johnson Park Center**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carol Blackburn for details.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters and ushers for our in-person Sunday services. We will return to weekly in-person worship (along with continued Zoom and livestream) in June (aside from June 13th), so we'll need volunteers for these roles each week from June 20th forward. We ask everyone who does attend the in-person worship to volunteer to assist with the service in some capacity at least once per quarter. Thank you!

We are asking **everyone who uses/visits the church to continue wearing a face covering.** This would include any visits to the church office.

Zion is participating in the **good-natured "Sign Wars" fun**, which has been sweeping the Mohawk Valley. This is an effort to inject some humor into our community during these sobering times of the pandemic by having neighboring businesses/ organizations post humorous messages directed toward one another. Our first message was directed toward Friendly's, and said "We like our Sundays better!" An upcoming message, directed toward Allstate, will read, "We're in even better hands." If you have ideas for positive, good-natured, humorous messages that can be directed to Utica College, St. Luke's, Sunoco, The Phoenician, The Sleep Lab, or Minar's, please pass them along to Sara in the office.

In addition to being together with so many in person this past Sunday, Rev. Jen's uplifting sermon, and Marcus Corasanti's beautiful music, a highlight of this past Sunday for me was the chance to express our thanks to Evon Pinkos as she concludes her time as one of Zion's housekeepers. Evon retires on May 31st. She has served our Zion family so well during these past five years. Thank you, Evon! We wish you well and look forward to continue having you with us for worship on Sunday mornings.

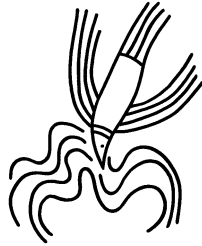
May you have a safe and healthy week ahead!
Mark Thompson, church council co-president

May Mystery Class with Pastor Janet

We hope you were able to join us this past Saturday, May 22nd. We are continuing to look at authors who have written LOTS of mysteries. This past Saturday, we explored James Lee Burke and Simon Brett. And if you want to look ahead, June 26th - Emma Lathen, Mary Higgins Clark, and Carol Higgins Clark, and August 28th - Stuart Woods and John Sanford.

Our Zoom login remains the same (thank you New Hartford Library), but just in case you haven't memorized it:
Meeting ID :966-8259-4364 Password 125429

Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
The Holy Trinity



May 30, 2021

WELCOME

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: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! vs. 1&4 Hymn #413 –Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Vs. 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Gospel: John 3:1-7

Sermon: *Pastor Janet Hoover*

It had been the best of times, but the people of Judah now fear that the worst of times are upon them. News of King Uzziah's death sends tremors of panic and worry through the streets and alleys of Jerusalem. As far as the people were concerned, Uzziah was the glue that held society together, that sustained a time of prosperity. Uzziah was one of the great kings of Judah, a man who honored God and through whose rule the people were blessed. The economy boomed; world-wide trade was at an all-time high. Clean water flowed freely. Tables were piled high with food. King Uzziah won every war he fought, and it seemed as if happy days would go on forever. But Uzziah was mortal, and he died. The people weep and mourn and stagger around as if they no longer know which way to turn. Dark clouds of despair and worry cover the horizon. It is during this time of anguished doubt that Isaiah goes to the temple. And while he is there, he sees the Lord. In a vision so powerful, so awesome, so....holy that it changes his life forever. Isaiah sees the Lord—not pacing back and forth, wringing his hands and huddled with his advisors in a panic over the death of his king, Uzziah. Isaiah sees the Lord sitting on the

throne, high and lifted up above every ruler, every circumstance, every condition, every problem, every difficulty. Isaiah brought face to face with the glory and grandeur of the God who created the heavens and the earth. Frederick Buechner describes the scene this way: *There were banks of candles flickering in the distance, and clouds of incense thickening the air with holiness and stinging his eyes. And high above him, as if it had always been there but was only now seen for what it was, there was Mystery itself, whose robe was light. There were winged creatures shouting back and forth the way excited children shout to each other when dusk calls them home, and the whole vast place started to shake beneath his feet. And Isaiah cried out, O God, I am done for. I am a man—corrupt and broken. How can I live in the presence of such beauty and goodness? Then one of the winged things touched his mouth with a glowing ember that seemed to burn away all his sin. Then Mystery itself said, Who will it be? And with charred lips, Isaiah whispered—Me.*

The scene described here is so glorious, that words seem inadequate. But words are the only tools I have to describe what is indescribable. I wish I could sing it, or even better paint it, the way Paul Duke describes as a scene with three panels. The center panel is taller and broader than the two side panels—it reaches through the ceiling and upward further than the eye can see. It swirls with amazing colors—some so bright they hurt our eyes, some so dark and mysterious our hearts race and our hands tremble. There is the outline of a throne there and the space around the throne vibrates with beating wings, all of this drenched in a clear, radiant light. The panel on the left depicts a human figure caught in a beam of light radiating from the center panel. Bent over as if in pain, eyes lowered, mouth opened in some sort of primal howl of regret or remorse, as if for the first time he sees himself as he has become. The panel on the right shows that same figure, this time standing erect, head back, eyes fixed on the throne, arms lifted as if to embrace the light streaming down and around him. And we see that the only way from the brokenness and pain of the left-panel to the wholeness and joy of the right, is through the glory of the central panel—the place of love and beauty that washes us clean, that bathes us in mercy and grace, leaving us pure and alive to joy. That is Isaiah's story. And it is ours as well. Our glimpses of glory may not be as startlingly vivid as Isaiah's, but these holy moments are all around us—times when we see the amazing grace of God. It may happen in the light of a baby's smile, through the splash of water in the baptismal font, the warmth of a friend's embrace. We glimpse God's goodness in the play of light and shadow on the walls around us. We hear it in the chords of well-loved hymns. God's wonder surrounds us in scenes of green hills and flowering bushes. In the eyes of loved ones and the smiles of strangers (not disguised even if behind a mask). That's why most of us gather on Sunday morning, isn't it? In hopes that through the prayers of the gathered community we will be swept up into wonder. That is also the risk of worship, for as we dare to look into the heart of God's love, we see ourselves as we have become. Created in the image of God we have allowed that image to become tarnished and faded. Worship holds before us a mirror in which we see our shabbiness, our ragged edges, our grasping little lives. But it is only through worship—through our acknowledgement of God's goodness and of our brokenness—that we can be made whole. Through our baptisms we are assured that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love, and so we can have the courage to take our life—all of it—the good, the bad, the successes, the failures, the victories, the defeats—all of what we are, and hold it in the holy light of love, trusting that, even though our healing may hurt like fire, redemption will come on wings of grace.

But the story doesn't stop here. Isaiah's healing led to his hearing God's call and responding with *Here I am, Lord*. There is a fourth panel to our painting—located at the foot of the center panel. A collage of broken dreams and rivers of beauty, faces beaming with love, and some hardened with hate, bombed out cities and fields of grain, flowering trees and dried-up river beds....all of it together creating this beautiful, wounded planet we call home. Over it a hovering sigh: *Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?* Isaiah's answer propelled him into a life that was heart-breaking and soul-affirming, that stretched his spirit and transformed a world. And so, God comes to us. God calls us in love, to love. God gives us glimpses of goodness and glory and then calls us to be about the business of living generous and abundant lives that bless all those around us. God needs your hearts and your hands, your minds and your bodies, your energy and your creativity, your wisdom and your courage. We are the people that, for some reason none of us can explain, have been chosen, who have been selected and named and claimed by God to serve this world full of hungry, wandering, wondering, confused, lost people. As Walter Brueggemann puts it, we are a people awed to heaven and at the same time rooted in earth. Caught up in wonder and worship and living in the messiness of human existence. This seems an appropriate text for this weekend or remembrance as we reflect on those men and women who served God and have now moved into the fullness of God's glory. We honor those whose lives blessed our own in particular ways...not just on battlefields, but in classrooms and around the family dinner table, in workplaces and meeting rooms. All those who heard God's call and said...whatever you need, God. Send me. Those who started churches and led them through years of difficulty and change. As I was working on this text, I was reminded of

the writing of the poet, Ann Weems...and so, very loosely quoted: I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ, where two or three or thousands can gather in the Lord's name and then go forth to touch the world with the amazing good news that somebody cares. I celebrate this community, where the people say Yes in the face of No, where candles are lit in the darkest night, where healing and compassion and the life-giving love of Christ become a part of your lives. I celebrate the church, where we are called from half-heartedness to commitment to a God who calls us to change our direction, to be reborn to new hope, new courage, new joy. I celebrate the mercy and forgiveness, the tears wiped away, the hands held, the gifts given, the children treasured and nurtured, the broken made whole, the races run, the failures met, the opportunities given. For God works miracles in common clay pots, changing caterpillars to butterflies and water to wine, changing seeds to oak trees and night to day, changing winter to springtime, changing lives from ordinary to abundant. We are called to be God's celebrants, listening for God's song of hope, responding to God's word, praising God with justice and mercy and humbleness, praising God with changed lives.

And so let us go from here with hearts full of praise to serve the One who loves us always. Let us go from here trusting that we are wrapped in holiness and sustained by grace. Each day, let's celebrate the wonderful wildness of God, who fills us with the Holy Spirit, with an indescribable, unexplainable peace and joy. And we see...we see rainbows, many-splendored colors, light in pitch darkness. And every day becomes a festival of faith. And, filled with that joy, we move out into this world to become rainbows of blessing to those we meet. Friends, God is good. Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

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.

ANTHEM: If You Believe, composed by Jim Brickman

- Kelli Watson

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this worshiping community, Zion Lutheran Church, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. 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, Gail, Kayleigh, comfort for Patsy, healing for Jeanette, Bill, Lyla, Claudia & Fran, Edie Marie, Ed and family, prayers for Michael Gilleece and family, Theresa, and our country, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

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.

Closing Hymn: *Holy God We Praise Your Name vs. 1&4 Hymn #414 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav’n above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Vs. 4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Blessing

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

Dismissal

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



Garden Ministry - hundreds of cars pass Zion every day. To make our church more inviting, we maintain flowers in the planters by the parking lot doors, the playground, and the Prayer Garden (on the corner of French and Burrstone Roads - where the white stone cross is). When you see some bright, sturdy plants, please bring them to Zion by Sunday, June 13th, and plant them or leave them on the cart by the downstairs door. Donations of black mulch are also appreciated. Please contact Kim Marscher kmarscher@yahoo.com) if you have questions. Remember the saying - “Flowers are God’s laughter”- let’s show that Zion is a happy place. Thanks for your help.

June Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion family!!

Don Gregory	3	Nathan Killian	20
John Blackburn	4	Robert Kulawy	24
Debra Tompkins	4	Jayden Silva	24
Vivian Deckman	6	Patti Cappelli	25
Danyelle Stevens	7	Jeanne Youngkrans	25
Carl Schmitt	8	Linda Lambe	26
Alex McAllister	11	Sue Pardee	27
Ben Edmiston	12	Lois McAllister	27
Phil Renno	13	Jan Joslyn	28
Elizabeth LaFave	18	Joanne Spetz	29
Christopher Pulliam	18	Barb Wilson	29
Jim Smith	18	Connor Russell	29
Alan Swierczek	19		

Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Gene White	Building Fund	Duff Campbell
Pr. Paul & Peggy Joslyn	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Departed loves ones	Memorial Fund	Doris Berry
Eleanor Harrington	Transportation/Disabilities Fund	Kim & Jim Marscher
Doris Miga	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch
Lois & Chick Hall	Food Pantry	Don & Wanda Gregory
Rose LaGase, my mother	Building Fund	Fran LaGase
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Duff Campbell	Building Fund	Laura Campbell
Bob & Bonnie Loomis	Zion Food Ministry	Kerstin Soykan
Kim Marscher's service as Choir Director	Building Fund	Carl & Judy Schmitt

April 2021 Treasurer's Report				
	April 2021	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 14,789.95	\$ 62,262.25	\$ 54,633.34	\$ 7,628.91
Other Income	\$ 6,140.73	\$ 11,846.19	\$ 9,732.65	\$ 2,113.54
Total Income	\$ 20,930.68	\$ 74,108.44	\$ 64,365.99	\$ 9,742.45
Total Expense	\$ 9,838.01	\$ 52,086.59	\$ 73,758.65	\$ (21,672.06)
Net Income	\$ 11,092.67	\$ 22,021.85	\$ (9,392.66)	\$ 31,414.51

From the Pen of Mae Parker

Like a cord that binds a mother
With her child so weak and small
Jesus has a cord with strength and power
That he offers to us all

Come and get connected to this power
That will guard you through your sorrows
It will give you strength just when you need it
To face with courage your tomorrows

With this closeness deep inside you
Feel the arms that hold you fast
Guiding, loving, and protecting
Until you're home with God at last



***Social Media: Don't forget to like & share our posts, sermons, and pictures!!
Share our YouTube clips, talk about our ministries and all that you love about
your church home!*** (Zion's Facebook & YouTube Page- Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY)



Above - Mark Thompson congratulating Evon Pinkos on her retirement and thanking her for her years of service.

Below - Laurel McCurdy introducing Evon Pinkos as we celebrate Evon's retirement.





Snapshots from Zion's History

When our congregation moved from Fay/Cooper Streets in West Utica to our present location, religious objects from Old Zion were brought to the new sanctuary. The most prominent of these was the magnificent altar created by nationally-famous woodcarver Reinhold Pietsch. The altar rests in our chapel room on the second floor.

Some smaller artifacts are prominently displayed today, but can be easily overlooked as we walk through our building. Most were memorials, given by members to commemorate the lives of loved ones. Now, of course, the givers have joined their beloved in the church triumphant, but their memorials endure - and so should the stories behind these gifts.

Centered on a table to the left of the nave's entrance doors in the narthex is a small, gilded cross with this inscription: "1895 - 1943; In Loving Memory of; Otilia Fehrenbach Kolmer." A couple weeks ago, I paused by this cross and wondered, "Who was this lady?"

Otilia "Tilly" Fehrenbach was born in Utica on October 11, 1895, the only child of Alfred and Ida Goetz Fehrenbach, German immigrants who arrived here around 1892. Alfred worked for the West End Brewing Company (F.X. Matt Brewing Company, Utica Club, Saranac Brewing), while Ida kept the family's home on Whitesboro Street.

Tilly married Frank Kolmer in 1917. His German-born parents, Franz and Elizabeth Fischering Kolmer, arrived here in 1891. The younger Kolmer worked as a teamster in 1920, but eventually found a position as a salesman for West End. Like her mother, Tilly was a housewife. The couple was living in the Roosevelt Apartments on Genesee St. when she passed in 1943. Pastor William C. Nolte conducted Tilly's funeral service in her apartment.

Obituaries stated that Otilia and Ida Fehrenbach were active in Zion's Ladies' Aid and Flower Mission. The cross we view today was part of Ida's larger gift in 1947 that included candleholders and an altar for the Sunday School. Pastor Edmund Bosch and Sunday School Superintendent Harold Lambert dedicated the memorial in December 1947.

While older members may have forgotten Tilly, many certainly remember her niece and nephew - Eleanor and William "Bill" Esele, who were active in church throughout their lives. Eleanor served as Superintendent of the Primary Department of Zion's Sunday school; Bill was a Church Council member. Both Eseles were involved in many other Zion activities. Eleanor entered the church triumphant in 1981, Bill in 1985.



A Memorial Day Prayer -By Tamsen Butler

There's no comfort in battle,
No joy in the field.
Though exhausted and rattled,
Did they know their fate was sealed?
Did they know the end would come?
Were they scared or were they strong?
Were they willing to do it all for freedom?
Did they mutter, "No, this is wrong"?

No, they grasped the flag;
They ran forth with no fear.
Their bravery did not lag;
They held their faith near.

The Lord gave them strength
And held them close in His arms.
They were willing to go the length
To rage forth despite alarms.

Did they know it was the end?
Did they know their battle was lost?
They knew what they were willing to spend
And what would be the cost.

Thank You, Lord, for hearts that are brave,
For sacrificial love and those who serve.
We appreciate everything they gave
And their unshakeable nerve.

Pay Tribute With Prayers for Memorial Day

Silent thoughts, moments of reflection, and well wishes are meaningful ways to pay tribute and honor the military on Memorial Day. Spend some time meditating on the courage and self-sacrifice for which you are grateful.