

Leadership Letter for the Week of September 13th-19th

To our Zion family,

Last week ended with the sobering and solemn remembrance of the 9/11 attack on our country. After two decades, the feelings of shock, sadness, and outrage still remain fresh for so many. Amazing Grace, considered by many to be America's national folk hymn, has been sung at countless services following incidents of loss, tragedy, and grief. The words to the second and third verses are as follows:

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures

Here's a link to listen to this beautiful hymn if you have access to the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDdvReNKKuk>

Announcements and Updates

Sunday Service Schedule:

Sept. 19th at **Our Saviour**, 10:00 AM. The Zoom link/worship plan will be sent in a separate document.

Sept. 26th-Oct. 31st in Zion's sanctuary. In addition to in-person in our sanctuary, all services will be available on Zoom, Zion's YouTube channel, and on our Facebook page. (Links will be included in upcoming leadership letters.) Service of the Word will be included in each week's leadership letter.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Zion's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday! Our donations of bedding, paper goods, food, and other items will benefit this new initiative created to help the homeless in our community. Thanks to Ted McCarthy, Steve Eadline, and Ed Grove for transporting the many donations to the Morrow Warming Center program.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood at this past Saturday's Blood Drive at Zion. We especially appreciate the work of Ben Silva, Sara Silva, and Linda Bennett in handling all the logistics. *Please see the results at the end of this document.*

Organ Repair

Repairs were recently completed on the organ in Zion's sanctuary.

Church Council Meeting

The church council gathered for their monthly meeting on Monday. The agenda included discussion of the options for renting the parsonage, a consultation with Synod representatives on our call process, reconnecting with members who have not been worshiping with us in person or online, and arranging for new members to join Zion.

Seeking New Church Council Members Starting in February

Although still several months away, our church council is looking for new members to begin three-year terms starting in February, 2022. If you haven't served on council previously, or if it has been a number of years since your last term of service, we ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering. Please speak with any member of the current council to express your interest or for further information.

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II will be installed as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Patsy Glista has shared with us that this service will be livestreamed so anyone who is interested may take part in this service from the comfort of their own homes. The link will be sent out later this week.

In Sunday's gospel reading from Mark (8:27-38), Jesus asks his disciples directly, "Who do you say that I am?" and, depending upon our answer, whether we are ready to pick up our own cross, whatever that might be, to follow Him? Rev. Janet's sermon on this passage left me feeling inspired and challenged. Her words are far better than any interpretation I might offer. She said, "I hope this passage from Mark will go with you this week. I hope that you struggle to answer Jesus' questions. Remember, to take up the cross is not just to suffer and have problems. Rather, it is to willingly and joyfully go into places of hate and anger and pain with the healing embrace of love. It is to place the needs and hurts of others above our own need for comfort and security. ...Who do you say that he is? Prayerfully think about your answer. And then be ready to go where he leads. It may sometimes be a path you would prefer not to walk, but don't be afraid, for Christ walks with you—comforting and encouraging. And he will show you the way one step at a time. Come, he says...follow me."

I am grateful, proud, and humbled by the generous outpouring of support, resources, and caring from our congregation for the God's Work, Our Hands effort to support the homeless at the Morrow Warming Center. May we continue to do God's Work in our world each and every day.

Peace and good health to all,
Mark Thompson, church council co-president

Red Cross Blood Drive Results:

Thank you for hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on September 11th!

25 donors scheduled

25 donors registered

5 donors deferred

1 first time donor

21 units collected (including Power Red donations!!)

63 lives potentially saved!

Blood drive goal: 17 units

% Collected to goal: 124%

The Red Cross is hoping to schedule another Blood Drive at Zion on Saturday, February 19th. We will confirm this soon!