



May
2022

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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Zion's News & Notes

A few words from Pastor Rick

It was such a joy to be able to worship in-person on Easter for the first time in almost three years. We had a full house and parking lot! Christ is risen and lives in you and all God's people!

Thank you to all the worship leaders and musicians. Thank you to the altar guild who set up communion and to all the donations of flowers. The floral cross in the entry way at the bottom of the steps was so beautiful.

In our worship during the Easter season (Easter is a season, not a day!), you will notice a few changes and restorations to our liturgy.

First, we confess our faith using the Nicene Creed.

Second, we are adding back more music. We will again sing three hymns or songs and more stanzas of them. We will sing each week the hymn of praise, "This is the Feast of Victory for Our God", the song of the saints in heaven, especially appropriate this year because our second readings are all from the book of Revelation.

Third, we are restoring all the petitions to the Prayers of Intercession. Evangelical Lutheran Worship, our liturgy and hymn book, teaches that these prayers are to "reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world" and conclude with "prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed".

The prayers each week are offered in six categories: for the church universal and the spread of the gospel; for the well-being of creation; for peace, justice, the nations, and those in authority; for the poor, oppressed sick, bereaved, and lonely; for all who suffer in body, mind, spirit; and for the congregation and its special concerns.

The second and third categories especially need our prayer. Our planet, every species, all habitats, and the climate are all God's good gifts and are endangered. They need our help, our love, and acts of nurture and protection. In the face of war and violence, enmity, and other troubles, each and every nation and its leaders need prayer to use their position in humble service for the shared good of every people, and for justice, peace, and freedom for all.

Sometimes it seems the problems are so great and there is so little we can do to make a real difference and change. What we always can do is pray, and God promises to hear, like loving parents for their children. The prayer moves God to action and also moves and changes us.

"Ora et labora" is a phrase that came from the Benedictine monastic movement in the Middle Ages. I first encountered the phrase at the beginning of tests in seminary. It means, "Pray and Work". How appropriate there.

The same Holy Spirit that prays with us and for us, even when we don't know how (Romans 8:26-27) also moves and guides us into Christ's mission and works of God's compassion and justice. Prayer and Works of Love and Faith support and go together. One cannot exist without the other.

As one website expresses, "Ora et labora" is a call to pray persistently and work relentlessly even in the midst of uncertainty. The capacity to balance the two is the secret of a fruitful journey of life, a spirituality for daily living. It is so much more needed particularly now when we face a totally changed, challenged situation.

So much has changed in our lifetime, in these past few years and months, in our world, in the church, in our community, in our own personal lives. Let's pray and go to work.

God's blessings!

Pastor Rick Klafehn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zion remembers James “Jim” Daly. Jim was an active member at Zion ever since he married Carol Schmitt at Zion on February 7, 1959. Our deepest condolences go out to Jim’s family, his children, Jon, James, and Jacqueline, and their families.

Worship Team: Please continue to pay attention to the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. Zion always needs your help to lead the services!

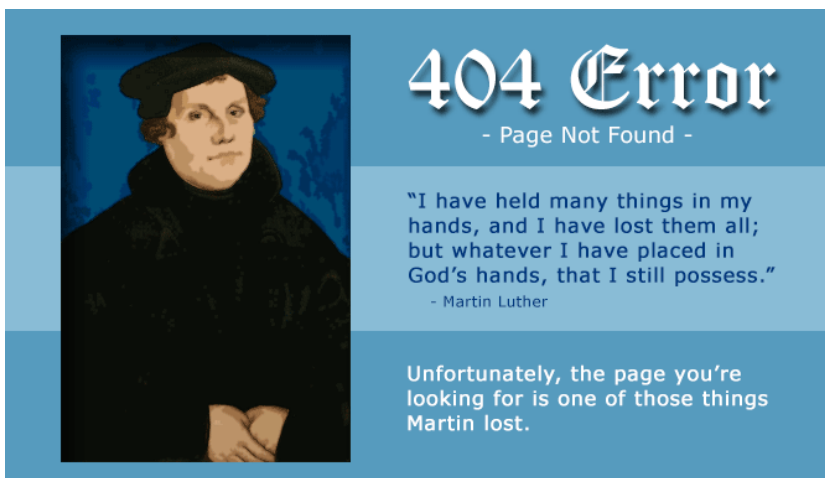
Weekly Bulletin: Zion has discontinued sending out weekly bulletins via USPS. Please let Sara know if you would like to continue to receive mailings. This is by request only. Thank you!

Worship and Music: Zion's Worship and Music Committee will meet in person in the Fireside Room after worship on Sunday, May 1st (at 11 AM) to discuss plans for the upcoming season and evaluate Zion's services.

Graduation & moving up ceremonies: Please send any brag worthy details that you would like for us to post in our upcoming newsletters for the student in your life. No recognition is too small! You can send your requests to Sara at office@zionluth.com.

Women of Faith: On March 27th, 24 women from Zion, Our Saviour, and Trinity gathered at Zion for a program led by Rev. Anita Mohr on the ELCA Social Statement, Faith, Sexism and Justice. Our gathering provided both an opportunity to look at this important social statement and to continue building our friendships and comradery with one another. On April 17th, we finished up our Bible Study “*Let Us Pray.*” WATCH for information in June about our summer Bible Study opportunity, which will run one evening each month in June, July, and August.

SAVE THE DATE – On Sunday, July 31st, at noon, women will gather at Our Saviour Lutheran Church for our next in-person get-together. Our Saviour will host us and provide beverage and dessert. Bring a bag lunch. Trinity’s women will be planning the program, with more details to come next month.



Save this for the next time you receive one of those error messages, “page not found”!!

The Abide Process

We will meet again via Zoom on May 22nd, at noon and end by 1:15PM.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81647305426>

Meeting ID: 816 4730 5426

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,81647305426# US (New York)

From April 3rd Meeting:

Insights, reflections, themes from our conversation about the questions submitted in the pre-meeting work:

Looking for a pastor (a shepherd) is named in several questions

Mission

Finances are a concern and may be driving some of our need to think about partnering

Creating vibrant ministry for people of all ages

Creative with social media, expand and maintain current online worship options

Grief over the loss of so many in a relatively short span of time (two years), discussion about how that grief impacts the

Realities of congregations life

Concern about the future of the church and whether we will even have a church

Zoom is an example of a blessing sea connection

Recognition that we are all the body of Christ and that the Spirit moves through us all

Need to figure out what working with others might look like (sharing ministry, sharing a pastor, who do we partner with and why)

Leader burn-out (we are an awesome group of people, but we need more; some of us are tired)

Need for a shift in paradigm

We need to think forward...what can we be? where can we go?

Next Steps:

With a spirit of looking to current patterns and forward movement, think about how we might address the named areas of focus and need. We do this work *so that* we can eventually, succinctly define mission (purpose, culture, who/why/how or ministry) AND implement some of the ideas with plans and goals

As we move forward, this central question emerges as a starting place:

How might we break out of the current patterns (paradigm) at Zion in the areas of leadership expectations, sustainability, and vitality?

Areas of focus:

- Leadership expectations (pastoral and lay leadership)
- Sustainability (financial and people, shared resources with others)
- Vitality (service, worship, learning, outreach)

Homework: Give some thought to the above question and areas of focus prior to the next meeting. You may want to set a timer and just freely write down whatever comes to mind as you think of how we might attend to the areas listed above. No observation or response is wrong. We are in the brainstorming phase where all are encouraged to think in broad and wide patterns of ideas. You may be tempted to add other areas of focus. For this activity and practice, it is important that all are focused on the named question and areas listed above. Please send me responses prior to our next meeting. Send to: lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org

During the next session: We will meet as a large group and then use the Zoom feature of breakout rooms to talk about each area of focus on its own. Finally, we will come back together and report what we discussed in the smaller groups, noticing themes. Each group will send their notes to me so that I can process and prepare for the next session.

A note about the process: I know mission was named several times, and yet the word does not appear directly in the next step of action. This next step of focusing on three areas will potentially lead to a larger conversation about mission as you begin to concretely define who you are right now and who you want to be. The word “mission,” comes with a lot of historical and cultural baggage and expectation. If we begin with a conversation about mission we risk naming lofty ideas rather than focusing on measurable ideas and plans that may result in actual change and forward movement.

May Birthdays

Michael Stevens, Jr.	2	Shirley Eadline	17	Moirra Dowd	30
Kristin Free	3	Eleanor Hecklau	18	Alison Manderson	31
Evan Marscher	4	Kate Lambe	18	Karen Toepp	31
Tricia Meneses	5	Ryan Kulawy	19	Joni Pulliam	31
Millie Angevine	5	Audrey Scholl	19		
Emilia Stevens	6	Robert Lambe	20		
Lloyd McLennan	8	Tracy Stevens	22		
Olivia Pierce	12	Abigail Tompkins	24		
Bill Pentland	13	Brandon Straite	24		
Ed Hecklau	15	George McGlynn	25		
Harry Morrison	16	Loretta Berie	28		

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Our Dad's Birthday, Gene White	Building Fund	Laura & Duff Campbell
Edward Mietz	World Hunger	Diana Inserra
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Pastor Rick	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Gene White's 90th Birthday	Building Fund	Linda White & family
Laurel McCurdy & Mark Thompson	Palms & Postage	Bob & Bonnie Loomis

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
May 1	Karen Toepp	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Linda Bennett	Mark Thompson
May 8		Pr. Bill Preuss		
May 15	Wendy Stevens	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Fran Holzberger	Laurel McCurdy
May 22		Deacon Patsy Glista	Linda Bennett	
May 29	Carl Schmitt	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	

A Note from the Council President

We have recently celebrated the resurrection. Pastor Rick reminded us that the Risen Christ lives in you and me and the people of Zion. The Risen Christ is guiding us as our Council moves forward with a second Zoom meeting with Trinity/Herkimer's Council to explore focuses and shared outreach activities. The date is yet to be decided.

Our next Abide sessions with Pastor Lori Kochanski will take place via Zoom on Sunday, May 22nd, at noon and Sunday, June 12th, at noon. Homework is due by May 17th. Our next Abide session will focus on pastoral and lay leadership expectations, sustainability (financial and people, shared resources with others) and vitality (service, learning, and outreach). I was pleased to see many participate in the first Abide session and hope this participation will continue in our next sessions.

In Christ's Service,
Linda Bennett
Council President

Thank You Letters

Dear Bob & Bonnie Loomis,

Thank you for your continued support with the purchasing of the Palms for Sunday as well as the palm crosses that are sent out to each family of Zion. Thank you for taking the time to come in to Zion to label, stamp, and stuff such a big mailing!

Sincerely,

Your Zion family

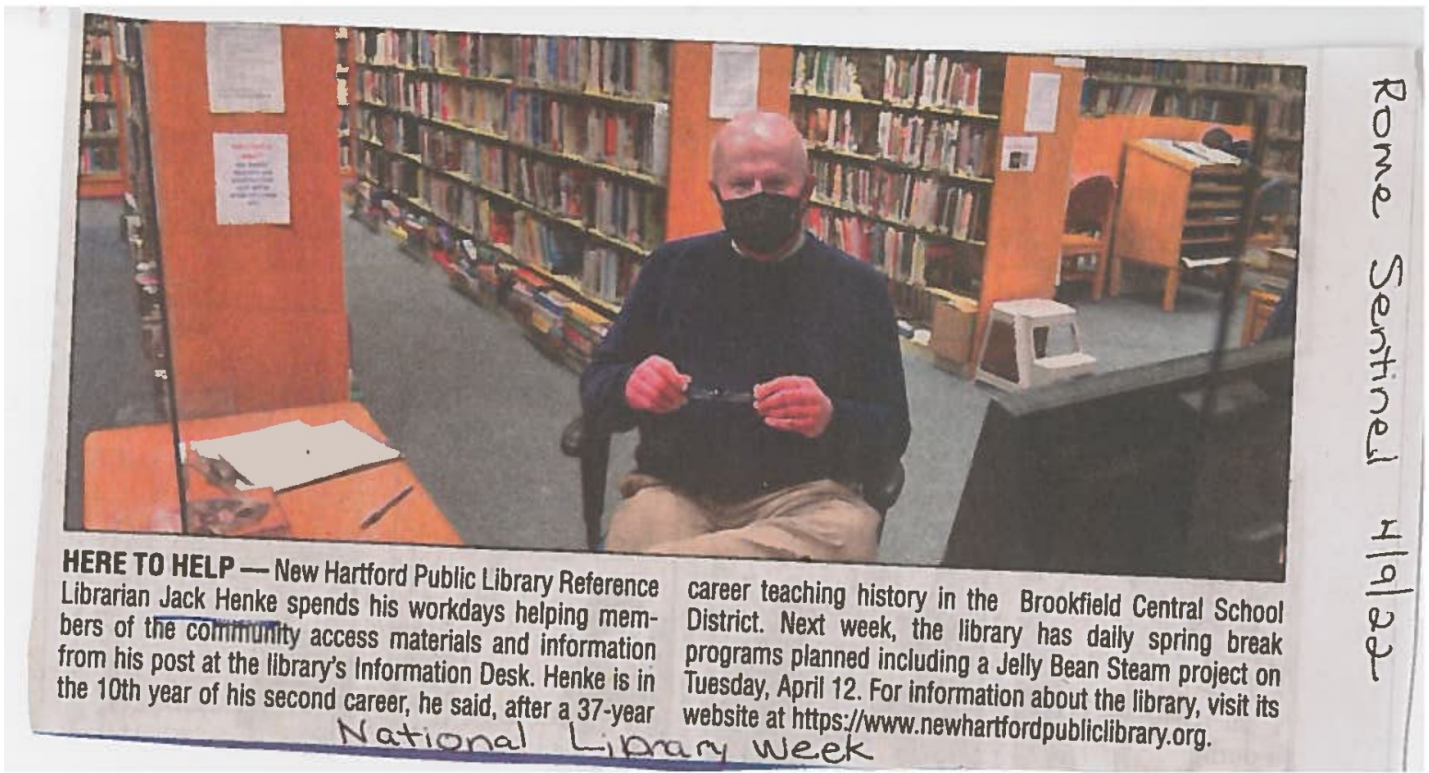
Dear Zion,

Thank you for prayers and the cards and notes I have received since my cancer recurrence last year. Follow-up bloodwork does not detect any cancer since my most recent treatments.

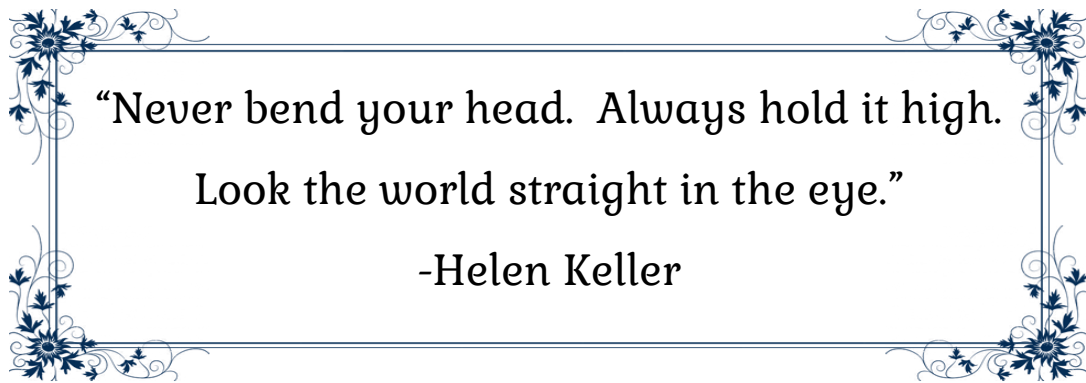
Thank you,

Roger Beiswenger

		March 2022 Treasurer's Report		
	Mar 2022	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 22,019.05	\$ 56,604.25	\$ 37,500.03	\$ 19,104.22
Other Income	\$ 383.09	\$ 3,737.91	\$ 5,110.57	\$ (1,372.66)
Total Income	\$ 22,402.14	\$ 60,342.16	\$ 42,610.60	\$ 17,731.56
Total Expense	\$ 14,304.71	\$ 42,476.12	\$ 43,526.95	\$ (1,050.83)
Net Income	\$ 8,097.43	\$ 17,866.04	\$ (916.35)	\$ 18,782.39



Zion's wonderful church historian, Jack Henke, made the news for National Library Week!



Thank you to our brilliant editors, Laurel McCurdy and Wendy Stevens, who help edit our materials that go out to the congregation. It is always nice to get extra sets of eyes on our work before sending out! It is a lot of work and we are so grateful for them for all that they do for Zion.

Easter Sunday Traditions Continue at Zion

Thank you to Jim & Katie Marscher for singing their one of a kind piece,

“The Jelly Bean Song.”



*Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers for Easter to help beautify the sanctuary!
And thank you to Laura Hilt for all her work to make this happen.*

*Many thanks to John Blackburn and Ryan Kulawy for accompanying Kelli Watson on their
trumpet and trombone. Thanks to Kim Marscher for leading us during the Kyrie.*

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talents to help make this day special.

It was a glorious Easter Sunday service!



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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.*



World Hunger: HOLY COW—THE “UDDER” JOY OF GIVING TO ELCA WORLD HUNGER. As we anticipate gathering for Synod assembly, our Synodical Hunger Team is once again encouraging your congregation's support for World Hunger by meeting a challenge goal of \$500 between now and June to purchase a HOLY COW!! We want you to experience the “UDDER” JOY OF GIVING. Your gifts help sustain the livelihood of farmers across the

globe, where your ELCA World Hunger dollars are at work in more than 60 countries including the U.S. and right here in the Upstate NY Synod. One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all. Please consider making the goal of \$500 or more a priority of your congregation's stewardship between now and the assembly (*June 5th-7th*) when you can add your gift to those of other congregations.