

**November Newsletter**  
Reformation Sunday  
Leadership Letter for the Week of October 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

To our Zion Family,

This past Sunday, we were fortunate to welcome 15 members of the Our Saviour congregation to the Sunday service in our sanctuary. Combined with the 28 members of Zion's congregation, our sanctuary had more people sitting in the pews than has been the case since the pandemic arrived! More than 18 people viewed the service, led by Deacon Patsy Glista, via Zoom. The Our Saviour congregation has been so gracious in welcoming us to their sanctuary when we have been without a supply pastor for a Sunday service, and also for their special weekday services during Advent and Lent. We were more than delighted to return the favor and worship together. We do have another opportunity upcoming to worship with both the Our Saviour and Trinity, Herkimer congregations on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Our Saviour sanctuary. Please see the more detailed description later in this leadership letter.

Announcements and Updates:

Sunday Worship:

This coming Sunday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, is Reformation Sunday. Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth will lead our service, which will be offered in-person in our sanctuary, via Zoom, on our YouTube channel, and on Zion's Facebook page. The Service of the Word is found later in this letter.

The following Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, is All Saints Sunday. While we do not have a supply pastor for this Sunday, we will offer in-person worship in Zion's sanctuary utilizing the Service of the Word. This Sunday will mark the kick-off of Zion's annual stewardship campaign. Information about Zion's current financial status will be provided in a Temple Talk. Please remember to wear red to church for Reformation Sunday!!

Log-in instructions for Zoom and YouTube:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwwSTBER2INb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>, 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/UCWzOtbCe2z7bIPvxp62IA>

Call Process Update:

We received the disappointing news that our candidate has withdrawn from Zion's pastoral call process. The candidate has indicated that they do not feel they are the right fit to be Zion's next pastor. The Call Committee and Church Council members have been notified, as have Pastor Anita and the Synod representatives. It is now time for us to regroup, continue praying that the right candidate comes our way, and continue to do our best for our Zion congregation, one day at a time.

### Stewardship Campaign Begins on November 7<sup>th</sup>:

Our next stewardship campaign will begin in two weeks. We know the past 18 months have been difficult ones for many in our congregation. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has continued supporting Zion and our mission this year with both your contributions of service and monetary offerings. There will be a Temple Talk introducing this year's stewardship effort at the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> in-person worship Service of the Word. Virtual viewing, via Zoom, YouTube will also be provided, as is the case each week. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will support Zion, our ministry, and one another with your gifts of time, talent, and funds for the next fiscal year. Thank you!!

### Church Council Members Sought for the 2022 Year:

In the coming weeks, we will begin accepting nominations (including self-nominations) and asking members of Zion's congregation to serve on our church council. There are a few openings anticipated starting in February, 2022, for a three year term. If you have never served on Council before, this is a wonderful way to serve our congregation and help shape Zion's future. If you have been on council before, we'd love to have you consider another term so we can benefit from your experience!

As we concluded this past Sunday's service, I was filled with gratitude and keenly aware of so many blessings and so many kind and generous people who have helped get me/us through these days that can, sometimes, weigh heavy. Deacon Patsy Glista's sermon delved into the experience of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. Despite not being able to "see" Jesus, Bartimaeus, nonetheless, had faith and called out to Jesus and threw off his cloak, possibly leaving behind his only worldly possession, despite being chastised by the crowds initially, because of his belief that Jesus had the power to heal. Kelli Watson concluded our service with a beautiful offering of *O Savior, Precious Savior*. I couldn't help think about our guests from the Our Saviour congregation. And finally, the words of the Blessing as we concluded: *People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world*, followed by the Dismissal: *Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you*. Let each of us, in our own ways, both big and small, bring new life to a suffering world that we encounter, and be filled with peace in doing so, knowing the living Word is dwelling within us.

Peace and good health for the week ahead,  
Mark Thompson, Church Council co-president

*Special thank you to all of the people who helped with Fran's funeral. Thank you for all of the cards, the visits, the phone calls, **everything**. I am so appreciative of all of the donations of different kinds. Many of you helped in so many different ways, everybody worked together, and I am overwhelmed with the care, love, and support that I've received. Mae Parker's poems were very special to me.*

Sincerely,  
Claudia King

Zion Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, NY  
Reformation Sunday



October 31, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Prelude in G Minor, by Anatole Liadow, arr. by Lee Ellis*

-Kelli Watson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter:

**Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #631* -Kelli Watson

**Vs. 1** Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

**Vs. 4** Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Pg. 1227

**Second Reading:** Romans 3:19-28, Pg. 1750

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



**Gospel:** John 8:31-36, Pg. 1663

The holy gospel according to John.

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

**Sermon:** *Truth and Freedom* -Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” Are these just well-worn slogans of the historical Reformation? Taglines of Reformation theology? Or something more? This morning I want to look at these verses in context, the context of the Gospel of John, and then look at what they mean on this day when we commemorate the Protestant Reformation.

First, a word about Jesus’ audience in this passage, “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him...” Throughout the Gospel of John, we see reference to “the Jews.” We need to be careful when we see that language, especially on Reformation Day, so as not to perpetuate anti-Judaism, or anti-Semitism, which is always a misreading of Jesus and the New Testament, and which is inescapable in the writings of Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers. Jesus was firmly embedded in the stories, scripture, and practice of Judaism, and from everything we can understand today about his life and ministry, he did not see Jewish people or religion as “other” than himself.

Many scholars now think that a better translation of the word in this passage is “Judeans,” in other words, a specific community of people in the area where Jesus was preaching and teaching to whom Jesus was connected and with whom he was interacting. And, here, Jesus is speaking to the specific Judeans who had been following him around listening to him, his peeps, but of course, as with all his disciples, then and now, this crowd did not always grasp what he was about, and so there is always a tension between the hearers and followers and their proficiency at hearing and following Jesus. He is not critiquing the Jewish religion here or its practice, but rather engaging in a dialogue with his followers. Second, these big philosophical ideas Jesus is talking about: Truth. When we think about truth in 21st century America, we are probably greatly hindered by the massive baggage we are carrying from the media and social media, politics, religion, marketing, and more. Every day we encounter actual lies, falsehoods, and disinformation wearing the clothing of truth. We are disheartened. Truth seems like a small bug squashed by a semi truck of deceit barreling down the road at 8 miles per hour. We need to take all that baggage and set it aside for a minute in order to understand what Jesus is talking about here. This is not about facts or even philosophical truth with a Capital T.

Let’s just focus for a minute on the Gospel of John and you’ll see what I mean. How does it start, this Gospel? “In the beginning was the Word...” So when Jesus here, in the Gospel of John, addressing those who believe in him, says, “If you continue in my word?” what is he saying? The Greek word “continue” here is the same word that is translated elsewhere as “abide.” And, in John, it’s not Jesus’ words that matter, it is that Jesus is the Word, the Logos of God. So “If you continue in my word” doesn’t mean, “if you ascribe to my teachings,” it means, “If you abide in me (the Word.)” “Continuing” means “abiding in Jesus.” Jesus’ word is Jesus. He is the Word, in the Gospel of John.

Then we come to... truth. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” In John Chapter 14, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” So, in the Gospel of John, Jesus is the Word and Jesus is the Truth. It’s not just true facts that set someone free. It is not just an ideology or scripture or set of theological beliefs. It is God’s love enfleshed: body and blood, muscle and bone, heart and soul, Jesus. Jesus is promising his friends who trust him that, if they abide in him, remain with him, they will be free.

You gotta love these followers of Jesus, because they ask the right question. “What do you mean by ‘free?’” And then comes the biggest load of ...denial you ever heard. It reminds me of white Americans: we’re drenched in four hundred years of white supremacy policies and practices, culture and laws, ideas and beliefs, that favor white people, and we begin sentences with, “I’m not a racist...” like we were dropped from the planet Mars instead of being shaped by the policies and ideas and history that actually made our country. Likewise, a bunch of people raised Jewish, shaped by Jewish scripture and story and practice, are going to argue that, as descendants of Abraham, they have never been slaves to anyone? Like they never heard of Moses and the whole exodus from slavery, the foundational story of their people and their God. Their statement is so nonsensical it is almost funny. What Judean, what believer in Jesus, would say such a thing?

Well, we do, all the time. We deny we need help. We deny we are limited and broken and in chains. We deny we are in need of forgiveness. We refuse to acknowledge... our sin. There is something deeply human about the confession we make at the start of worship, in its traditional form, and the Jesus of John Chapter 8 would recognize the words we say: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” “We confess that we are in bondage to sin and free ourselves.” Many people struggle with the weekly, let alone daily, confession of sin. Some churches in the ELCA and in Protestant churches like mine, the UCC, have jettisoned the language and the practice from regular worship. Too negative. Too depressing. Just skip it. We’re good. Jesus, as we can see from our passage today, would have argued pretty hard over that. So would the Apostle Paul, who wrote about the slavery of sin, the bondage of it. Martin Luther would have too. But none of them did so with the goal of making people feel guilty or bad or hopeless. Only with the goal of moving away from deceit and sin and toward life... the way, the truth and the life, actually.

Martin Luther famously said, "Strange. Though I am saved from sin, I am not saved from sinning." To try to cure our own sin was, for Luther, like shaving a beard. You could be shaved today and look clean, but it's going to grow back tomorrow. Any action we take to address our sin is fine for today, but it's not going to hold. It's not strong enough to be permanent. It's not powerful enough.

Paul gets this right in the passage assigned today from his letter to the Romans. He's making the case to a divided church in Rome that they are, in fact, united in sin but also all the joint beneficiaries of the *dikaioSunē* (righteousness) of God. And what that word means is not something "more ethical" or "morally better" than human behavior. The *dikaioSunē* of God is the divine power, the power of love to transform, to permanently and utterly cut the chains of bondage and free all the world from sin.

I'm sure there are people for whom this "power of God" means little, but if you, like me, have been gobsmacked by the magnitude of what you have "done and left undone" that hurt other people, or have experienced the closing-in-darkness of failure and hopelessness, or have known the bondage of addiction or destructive patterns, or realized that you are caught up in a web of greed and materialism destroying the planet that you can't escape, or have been burdened by any of the other countless weights of sin, then you know: it is literally everything.

The power of God for salvation is the Truth, but it is not an idea or a theology. It's not a theory or a slogan. It's a person, a person who embodies the power of God's love... in the beginning, on the cross, and everlastingly. A person in whom we can seek refuge and in whom we can abide. On Reformation Day and always, we know that if that person makes us free, then we are free indeed. Amen.

### **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.**

*ANTHEM: Canon in D, Johann Pachelbel -Kelli Watson*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

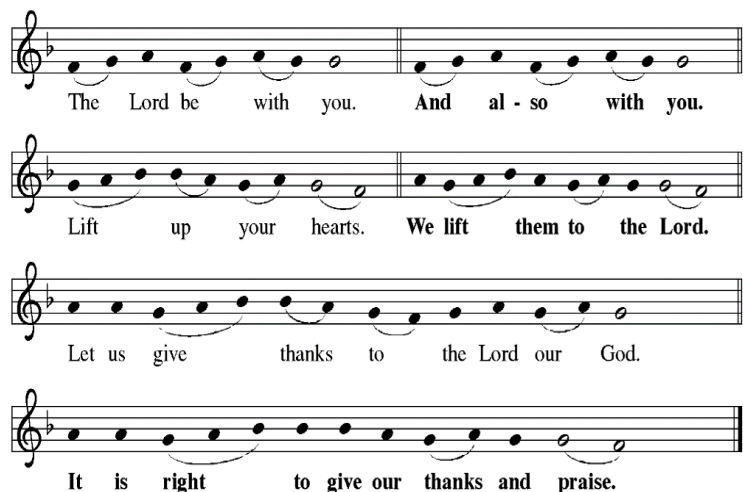
We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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 and friends of Fran King, healing for Darlene L., comfort for the family of Catherine Schieble, comfort for the family of Michael Gilleece, Bill, Bert, healing for Joyce, MaryEllen S., Carole, Kira, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Jeanette, Ed and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

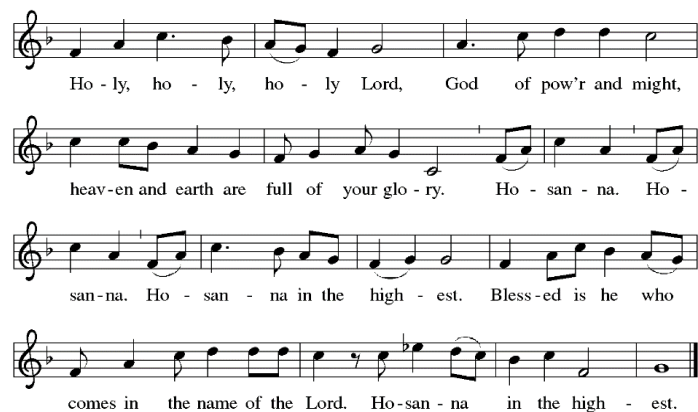
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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,

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven, vs. 1 & 4* Hymn #864 -Kelli Watson

**Vs. 1** Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

**Vs. 4** Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *March of the Israelites, by Michael Costa, arr. by Roger C. Wilson* -Kelli Watson

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## ALL SAINTS DAY

*A committee of people from Zion, Our Saviour, and Trinity Herkimer have been meeting to plan how we can grow our faith together. The first event is an evening service at Our Saviour on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Parishioners of all three churches as well as their friends in the community are encouraged to come and/or send in names of members, family, and friends who have died during these past two years, or for that matter, any year, so they can be remembered by name with candles that will be placed in the windows looking out onto Genesee Street. The light from the candles will remind us of the ones who have been lights in our lives. This will be a special service allowing many of us to say goodbye to loved ones whom we could not be with when they died. Please call Sara at (315) 732-4110 or text Fran Holzberger at [Rholzberger@roadrunner.com](mailto:Rholzberger@roadrunner.com) or text Laurel McCurdy at [lemccurdy@gmail.com](mailto:lemccurdy@gmail.com) with names of people you would like remembered on All Saints Sunday. As we get closer to that date, more information will be available.*

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## WOMEN UNITED IN FAITH

The Women United in Faith from Zion, Our Saviour and Trinity, Herkimer will be gathering together for programs and fellowship on a regular basis both in-person and virtually. Part of the plan is to visit one another's churches. ***Our first gathering will be Sunday, November 14 at 12:00noon at Trinity Lutheran Church, Herkimer. Our program, Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch, will come from the book, The Heart that Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle and explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!.*** Those attending are asked to bring a bag lunch of your choosing, coffee, tea, water and individually wrapped desserts will be provided. Trinity has also extended an invitation to us to join them for worship at 10:00am. Fran Holzberger will be attending worship so if you would like to carpool to worship let her know.

We can arrange carpooling from Zion over to Trinity to leave after our service. A sign-up sheet will be available at church or you may contact Patsy Glista (315.796.2985 / [paglista@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:paglista@alumni.nmu.edu)) or Fran Holzberger, (315.796.3434).

## *Given to the Glory of God*

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Bill Swartz	Memorial Fund	The Linda White family
Randy Richards	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch
Fran King	Roof Fund	Fran LaGase
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Linda Bennett
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Mary Ellen Van Allen
Fran King	Roof Fund	Wendy & Mike Stevens
Fran King	Building Fund	Dave & Ann McCarthy
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Chuck & Shirley Carlson
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Anthony Guido
Fran King	Roof Fund	Carolyn Dzwonkas
Fran King	Roof Fund	Debra Murdock
Fran King	Building Fund	Carl & Judy Schmitt
John Kratzert	Food Pantry	Carl & Judy Schmitt
Barbara Reinshagen	Food Pantry	Kerstin Soykan
Doris Berry	Zion Food Ministry	Kerstin Soykan
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Linda White & family
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Alan & Dianne Tuttle
Fran King	Roof Fund	Millie Angevine
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Ted McCarthy
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Carol & Ralph Youngren
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Lorraine & Richard Brazee
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Barbara Wilson
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Diana & David Gowey
Fran King	General Fund	Ed & Carole Grove
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Kim Manino
Fran King	Memorial Fund	Don & Wanda Gregory
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Carol Blackburn	Local Food Pantries	John Blackburn
Jeanne Gymburch	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy
Pr. Janet Hoover	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Jim & Kim Marscher	Local Food Pantries	Don & Wanda Gregory

September 2021 Treasurer's Report				
	Sept 2021	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	\$ 7,395.95	\$ 110,108.75	\$ 122,925.00	\$ (12,816.25)
Other Income	\$ 955.40	\$ 25,086.33	\$ 21,898.50	\$ 3,187.83
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 8,351.35</b>	<b>\$ 135,195.08</b>	<b>\$ 144,823.50</b>	<b>\$ (9,628.42)</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 9,584.60</b>	<b>\$ 110,070.28</b>	<b>\$ 169,665.22</b>	<b>\$ (59,594.94)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (1,233.25)</b>	<b>\$ 25,124.80</b>	<b>\$ (24,841.72)</b>	<b>\$ 49,966.52</b>



## **November Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!!**

Duff Campbell	2	Norm Jeche	18
Shane McLennan	2	David Goewey	24
Doreen Nicholls	10	Colin Richards	25
Shirley Carlson	14	Cindy Weir	28
Janet Kowalczyk	16	Robert Berkhoudt	30

### **\*NOVEMBER WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE\***

DATE:	WORSHIP ASST.	GREETERS	USHERS
11/7	Wendy Stevens	Carolyn Dzwonkas & Evon Pinkos	Deb Murdock & Jeanne Gymburch
11/14	Fran LaGase	Kristen Burson & Linda Bennett	Caryn Carlson & Laura Hilt
11/21	Wendy Stevens	Laurel McCurdy & Deb Murdock	Doreen Nichols & Jeanne Gymburch
11/28	Carl Schmitt	<i>Two greeters needed</i>	Kristen Burson, <i>one usher needed</i>



***Thanksgiving Food Baskets:*** *If you or someone you know is in need of a holiday food basket, please contact Sara in the office. If you would like to sponsor a food basket, please let Sara know and then place your contribution for the food basket in an offering envelope.*

*Feel free to send us your favorite Thanksgiving dishes!*

*Please try to make your recipe short & sweet; we're hoping to share all the recipes at once that come in. Thank you!*

### **Social Ministry is excited to continue one of Zion's holiday traditions - the Angel Tree & Mitten Tree!**

The Angel Tree will benefit the children at Thea Bowman Center, while this year the Mitten Tree will benefit the Warming Center. The need to assist the children at Thea Bowman is greater than ever this year. According to Thea Bowman Center, Zion's gift card contributions last year were a lifeline for the families. Due to restrictions made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year we will again ask for your financial gifts to the Angel Tree rather than actual toys. If you would like to participate in this year's Angel Tree tradition, please send a check equivalent to the amount you would normally spend for the gifts. Checks can be included with your weekly/monthly contributions and sent directly to Zion Lutheran Church with a notation of "Angel Tree" on the memo line. Angel Tree donations will be accepted through December 5<sup>th</sup>. All the monies received will be converted into gift cards that will then be sent to Thea Bowman for the purchase of gifts for the children and their families.

The Mitten Tree is Zion's tradition of collecting handmade or store-bought hats/mittens/gloves/scarves for the upcoming winter months. Donations will be accepted through December 5<sup>th</sup>. At this time, items can be dropped off at church in the box provided in the downstairs' coatroom. We ask that you place your items in see through baggies. 1- and 2-gallon Ziploc baggies will be provided for you to place your items in. Items can be dropped off Monday through Thursday during church office hours, and also during Sunday in-person services. The donated items will be delivered to the Warming Center in December. The Social Ministry Committee members gratefully appreciate all of your contributions this year for the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree.

## ZION ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION FOR 2021

Zion's Endowment Fund has \$16,160 available for distribution in 2021. One fourth of the total distribution will go to each of the following categories:

- (1) Community outreach programs
- (2) Special ministries of Zion
- (3) Missions of the ELCA
- (4) Zion Capital Projects

To be considered for a grant, submit a Zion Lutheran Church Grant Application Form describing your organization and what the funds will be used for to: Zion Lutheran Church, 630 French Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413 - Attn: Endowment Distribution. Or send via email to [office@zionluth.com](mailto:office@zionluth.com).

The Grant Application form is available from the church office. There is a link to the form in the Endowment Fund article on the church web site at: <http://www.zionlutheranny.org/Zions-Permanent-Funds>. Click on the blue bar (Click Here for Endowment Application) under the "How to Apply for a Distribution" paragraph.

Deadline for receipt of the form is November 1, 2021. All applications will be considered at the November 2021 Endowment Committee meeting. Recipients will be notified in writing and checks will be sent in late November/early December 2021.

### ZION ENDOWMENT FUND OVERVIEW

Zion's Endowment Fund was established in 1985 for the purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of Zion Lutheran Church apart from the general operations of the congregation. The Fund welcomes gifts from Zion and Utica community members. Gifts can consist of memorials, bequests in wills, charitable remainder and other trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignment of life insurance and transfer of property, such as cash, stocks, bonds, or real estate. To-date, most gifts have been from bequests in wills. Planned giving is one method of providing end of life gifting of one's wealth to the Zion Endowment Fund.

### YEARLY DISTRIBUTIONS

The Endowment Fund by-laws require that yearly distributions be made from the Fund. The distributions are divided among the following: one-quarter each to; community outreach, missions of the ELCA, special ministries of Zion Lutheran Church and Zion capital projects. The Endowment Fund Committee makes recommendations to the Church Council and Zion's congregation concerning the charitable distributions. Past recipients include; Community Food Bank, Your Neighbors, Family Nurturing Center, Canstruction, Lutheran Homes Foundation, Vanderkamp, KEYS Program, Foothills Rural Community Ministry and Center for Family Life and Recovery.

### HISTORY OF GIFTS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTIONS

In the 35 years of its existence, the Endowment Fund has received gifts and bequests of about \$200,000. Over this same period, distributions from the Fund now exceed \$280,000. The Endowment Fund expects to distribute approximately \$16,160 this year.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND ARE WELCOME

Contributions to the Zion Endowment Fund need not be just in the form of bequests in wills or trusts. Cash or checks, in any amount, in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special, would be appropriate and welcomed. Our hopes and expectations are that additional gifts, coupled with Fund earnings, will cause the Fund value to increase so that Zion may play an ever-larger part in fulfilling its mission in the world. Your endowment gift would be a part of that process.