



October
2024

Zion Lutheran Church
Zion News & Notes

Published monthly by the church office, newsletters include news of upcoming events, regular and special announcements, photos of current events, and other items of interest. Newsletter archives are available on our website:
www.zionlutheranNy.org

Circulation - 133
Preparer: Sara Silva
Editors: Laurel McCurdy and Wendy Stevens
Contributors: Members of the Congregation and outside colleagues

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Zion's News & Notes



A Few Words From Pastor Janet

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

"Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

~ *Luke 10:25-29*

The Message

Jesus answered the question with the story that we know as The Good Samaritan, a phrase so familiar that it used as shorthand to describe someone who is a good neighbor who demonstrates kindness. The story is one of the better known parables but not everyone remembers who the Samaritans were—that they were long-time foes of the Jewish people, despised and looked down on for not worshipping God in the right way or place. For those who don't know the adversarial relationship between the two, there is no understanding how shocking it was that Jesus would choose to use a Samaritan as an example of one who is a good neighbor in his parable.

Lutheran congregations like Zion often honor the Protestant Reformation on the last Sunday of October, remembering when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church doors at Wittenberg on All Hallows' Eve to spark debate regarding indulgences and other needed church reforms. Often Reformation Sunday is an occasion to observe our understanding of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. One of Luther's contributions that seems especially relevant to our time specifies the purpose of every vocation is to love and serve our neighbor.

We are living in a time of such division between neighbors; every issue seems to "us" versus "them." If something comes from them—we're against it. Whatever they say—it's wrong. Whatever they want—it's bad. Whatever they're doing—it must be stopped. We can hardly seem to have a conversation with some people without it turning into a disagreement. We are only really comfortable with like-minded people who have the same news source we do. We find it so difficult in our red and blue worlds to love our neighbor—surely Jesus didn't mean we are to love our neighbor in times like ours?

I think Jesus choosing to insert a Samaritan into the parable to demonstrate the one who showed mercy is Jesus telling us that there has always been division between neighbors. And because loving our neighbor is not always easy, people have always been looking for loopholes to get around it. God's command to love our neighbor did not originate with Jesus. He was quoting God's law found back in Leviticus. There have always been times when it is a challenge to love our neighbor, but it helps to remember that love in scripture is not a feeling but an action. Even when we are not feeling especially loving, our actions can still be loving.

Your Co-Worker in the Gospel, Pastor Janet

Please call the church office if you are interested in a home visit with communion by Pastor Janet.

October Announcements



Coffee Hour

Stay and join us for coffee hour every Sunday after the service! Please see the sign up sheet if you are interested in making coffee or cleaning up afterwards. You are welcome to bring food/snacks to Coffee Hour!

Attention Zion Attendees

If you are new to Zion, or if you have been attending for a while and would like to learn more about becoming a member, please call/email the office: 315-732-4110—office@zionluth.com.

Zoom/YouTube Online Services

If you if you need help with our online services, please reach out to Isabel at any time during the service at: ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com. You can also use Zoom's chat option.

Book Group

The next book group will be held in the Youth Room after the worship service on October 27th. All are invited to bring a book you'd like us to read together. We'll finish our discussion of "Holy Envy" and make plans for future meetings.

Worship & Music

The next meeting will be held on Zoom Wednesday, October 2nd at 7pm. Before the meeting, please send concerns about Reformation, All Saints, Advent and Christmas Sundays to Kim at: kmarscher@yahoo.com.

Council Binders

If you are a member of church council and have not received your council binder, they are available for pick up in the church office.

Church Envelopes

At the end of the 2024 calendar year, please discard any older envelopes that you may have left over. Each new year, members are assigned new numbers—using older envelopes becomes conflicting. We will keep this notice in all newsletters until the end of the year. Thank you!

Church Photography

We are working on updating our photos on the church's website. Feel free to let Sara know if you would rather not be in any photos that could end up on our website. Thank you!

Walking With Friends

Zion's Walking Group will meet again November 6th and every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Target wing at Sangertown. All are welcome - please join us!

BUILDING KEY NOTICE: Please do not give or loan out any church keys without first returning them to the church office to be checked back in/out. Thank you.

Special Announcement—Update

As promised, we wanted to keep you updated with the opening process of Apple Tree Preschool, Inc.

Preschool classes are in full swing! There are two classes; the morning classes are from 9:30-12:00pm, and the afternoon classes are from 12:30-3:00pm.

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, the downstairs classrooms now function as a Preschool and are unavailable to Zion members/friends or other outside groups. All outside groups have been notified.

By request, the Fellowship Hall will be free to use as needed outside of the Preschool hours.

On behalf of Social Ministry, Zion made a donation of \$200 to Apple Tree Preschool, Inc. to use towards supplies to help start the new school year.

If there are more pertinent updates, we will share them with you in the monthly newsletters.



October Birthdays

Happy
Birthday

David Stevens	4	Megan Free	21
Kerstin Soykan	4	Rusty Pentland	21
David Meneses	8	Jaclyn Marscher	21
Wendy Barrett	11	Isabel Silva	22
Betty Schieble	11	Emily Sowers	23
Jeanne Gymburch	12	John Dowd	25
Curtis Pulliam	16	Sandra Russell	26
Timothy Owens	18	Abigail LaFave	30

To
You!

Treasurer's Report

		Aug. Treasurer's Report		
	Aug-24	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 5,385.00	\$ 93,519.71	\$ 89,541.65	\$ 3,978.06
Other Income	\$ 2,000.66	\$ 9,729.69	\$ 9,746.39	\$ (16.70)
Total Income	\$ 7,385.66	\$ 103,249.40	\$ 99,288.04	\$ 3,961.36
Total Expense	\$ 12,553.98	\$ 95,562.79	\$ 99,345.48	\$ (3,782.69)
Net Income	\$ (5,168.32)	\$ 7,686.61	\$ (57.44)	\$ 7,744.05



OCTOBER WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Date:	Worship Asst.	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
Oct. 6	John Blackburn	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Deb Murdock & Doreen Nicholls
Oct. 13	Karen Toepp	David Grindle, SAM	Linda Bennett	Darlene Hill
Oct. 20	Joe Schmidt	Pr. Janet Griffiths	Darlene Hill	
Oct. 27	Mark Thompson	Pr. Jennifer DeWeerth		Laurel McCurdy

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Dear Sara,

I can't thank you enough for your partnership and leadership with the Zion Lutheran Church blood drive on September 10th. We want to share our gratitude with your incredible community of participants. Donors at drive: 8 - Incomplete: 1. There were two first time donors. O+ and O- blood types are the most in-demand and the first to run out in a shortage. Your drive collected three Type-O units! That number doesn't just represent extra units at the drive, it also represents new lifetimes of potential donations that we didn't have previously!

Thank you so much for your life saving partnership!

Billy Brill, Account Manager I, Donor Recruitment

Thank you to everyone who brought dishes and/or stayed to help package them into individual meals for Your Neighbors on September 8th! The total meal count was 87. Special thanks to Darlene Hill for her leadership with the event!



Happy 18th Birthday on October 22nd to Zion's Technologist, Isabel Silva!



As part of her school's APD Program, Isabel has been volunteering some of that allotted time at Zion. Here she is folding the church bulletins!

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications



Many thanks to everyone who brought in donations for Trinity-Herkimer's "God's work. Our hands." event! Thank you to Curtis Pulliam for making the delivery. Trinity was very thankful and wanted us to thank you for your generosity!

Thank You

Dear Zion family,

Heartfelt thanks to my Zion family for the beautiful gift of the incredible Edible Arrangement that I received shortly after returning home from my surgery in Syracuse. It was beautiful, yummy, and healthful.

I also want to thank you for the prayers, the beautiful cards, and the notes of well wishes. They were so thoughtful and meaningful. I hope to be able to come back to the salt mine very soon.

Sincerely,
Gloria Cifonelli



We had a great time at the Church Picnic on September 15th with our friends from Trinity-Herkimer and Our Saviour.

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or helped with the planning and preparations.

Many thanks to John Blackburn, pictured here with Pastor Anita, who served as worship assistant.

"Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blessed, thank you Lord for all the food, life, health, and every good, Amen."

Zion Endowment Fund Annual Distribution For 2024

Zion's Endowment Fund has \$16,504 available for distribution in 2024. 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.

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.zionlutherannyny.org/Zions-Permanent-Funds>
Once on the web page, 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, 2024. All applications will be considered at the November 2024 Endowment Committee meeting. Recipients will be notified in writing- checks will be sent in December 2024.

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 Center, KEYS Program, Foothills Rural Community Ministry, Center for Family Life and Recovery, Rebuilding the Village and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Syracuse University.

HISTORY OF GIFTS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTIONS

In the thirty-eight 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 \$325,000. The Endowment Fund expects to distribute \$16,504 this year.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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.

.....Women of Faith.....

Women of Faith Planning Meeting on Zoom

Topic: Women of Faith Planning Meeting Time: Oct 22, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84837631500?pwd=bYai9rY1XEa2Nif6PpNVHIVfg2FYhj.1>

Meeting ID: 848 3763 1500 Passcode: 231161

One tap mobile +16465588656,,84837631500#,,,,*231161# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 848 3763 1500 Passcode: 231161

Women of Faith - Event at Trinity-Herkimer

October 19th at 10 AM—Linda Bennett has prepared a program about Martin Luther's wife, Katie Luther. There will be a video presentation called "Katie Luther - A Morning Star." Trinity will be providing the refreshments. Thank you to Linda Bennett!

Women of the three churches are welcome & invited to attend!

Books *warm* the *heart*
And *delight* the *mind*.

READ

-Millie Angevine

Talk Saves Lives on October 9th. Please join us in the Parish Hall of St. James' Episcopal Church (9 Williams Street, Clinton) at 5:30 p.m. on October 9th for a conversation about suicide prevention that covers the scope of this leading cause of death, what the research has found to be the warning signs and risk factors of suicide, and the strategies that prevent it.. This event is organized by the Clinton Area Ministerium, and all are welcome.



The Women's Association of Stone Presbyterian Church,
8 So. Park Row in Clinton will be having a **DRIVE-THRU PIE SALE**
from 10am to 2pm on **Saturday, October 12th.**

Several different kinds of pies will be available with the emphasis being on apple! You can drive up and purchase a pie without leaving your car.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Fall Banquet



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL FALL BANQUET

*a fundraising event benefiting
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Syracuse University
and SUNY-ESF*

Sunday, October 27, 2024

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Drumlins Country Club

800 Nottingham Road, Syracuse, NY

Keynote Address

Robert Roger Lebel, M.D.

Professor of Genetics
SUNY Upstate Medical University

Distinguished Disciple

The Rev. Brian Konkol, Ph.D.

Dean, Hendricks Chapel
Syracuse University

Cash Bar, Dinner, Raffles & More!

Guest \$85 – Patron \$125

Benefactor Table \$1,000 – Student Sponsor \$85

Reservations accepted until October 21

Information: jkane@syr.edu or 315.355.7900



There's still time to reserve a spot at the *Lutheran Campus Ministry Fall Banquet* on October 27th! **Reservation deadline** is October 21st. Please call/email the church office for help with registration. LCM looks forward to having congregations represented at the dinner! Attending the dinner helps to support LCM programs, including faith and spiritual care for students at Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF throughout the school year.

You will also have the opportunity to meet the newly-called chaplain, Reverend Julie Kelly.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 French Road

New Hartford, NY 13413

CONTACT INFO:

Phone: 315.732.4110

Fax: 315.732.0067

Email: office@zionluth.com

Website: www.zionlutheranNy.org

Like us on Facebook at:

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.*



AUTUMN PRAYER

Oh easy-going, lovely natured thing
Come gently to this troubled life and bring
Good humour, sweet forgiveness, love and grace,
Bring gratitude and peace upon this place.
Feed our sorrows to the morning birds,
May their songs bring truth into our words,
In sadness let us feel each other's worth,
Turn our lonely losses into earth.



Leunig