

October Newsletter
LEADERSHIP LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT ZION AT 10 AM FROM SEPTEMBER 26TH TO OCTOBER 31ST!!
(Except for Boilermaker Sunday, October 10th, service begins at 11 AM!!

Our supply pastors for the next six Sundays are as follows:

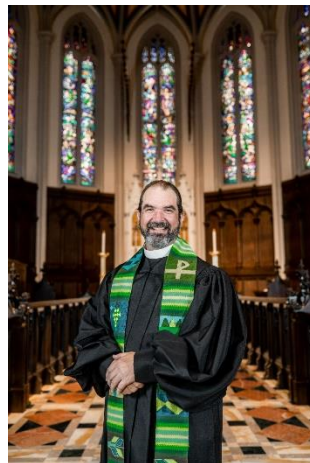
9/26 Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth
10/3 Rev. Janet Hoover
10/10 Deacon Patsy Glista
10/17 Rev. Janet Hoover
10/24 Deacon Patsy Glista
10/31 Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

As always, the Service of the Word will be mailed and emailed to you and you may also worship online using these links: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2INb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> , 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-bIPvxp62lA>

Dear Zion family,

“We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion: we’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.” These words from the refrain of the entrance hymn at the installation of our new bishop, the Rev. Lee M. Miller II, keep reminding me of the joy, peace, unity, hope, thanksgiving, justice, grace, and love I felt during that service at Bethany Baptist Church in Syracuse. I attended via Livestream on Saturday afternoon. Chosen by the Bishop, the second reading was Ephesians 4:11-12: *The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.* The Prayer of the Day at the Bishop’s installation was: *Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.* A short biography of our new bishop was included on the last page of the worship bulletin.

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II



Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II was elected on June 5, 2021 by the Synod Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod to serve as the fifth bishop in the synod's history. Pr. Miller begins a six-year term on September 1, 2021. Pr. Miller succeeds The Rev. John S. Macholz and is the son of former synod bishop, The Rev. Dr. Lee and Joan Miller. "I dream of a church where love activates people to do justice and share the joy which we receive as a gift," Bishop Miller says. The Upstate New York Synod is a collaboration of 170 congregations and communities throughout the Upstate region. The synod is united in its proclamation of God's grace for all people, the work of justice in each community and neighborhood, and the joy that is found connecting communities to one another. At the time of his election, Bishop Miller served as the Senior Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY, where he served for nine years, connecting the congregation to the community through local and global partnerships, collaborations, accompaniment work in racial justice, and in support of local schools and organizations. Bishop Miller previously served as the lead pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA, and his first call was to Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camden, NJ. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in English was earned from the State University of New York in Albany. He has served the whole church throughout his ministry as a member of synod councils and candidacy committees as well as serving as a voting member to the 2009 and 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assemblies. Most recently, Bishop Miller served as the Dean of the Niagara Frontier conference and sits on the boards of VOICE Buffalo, and the Niagara Lutheran Health System. Bishop Miller practices daily exercise and is a three-time marathon finisher. He also enjoys good music and a nice nap. He is married to his spouse, Heather, and their greatest joy is their son, Griffin. Bishop Miller is grateful for the love and support of his sister, Beth Ann, her husband, Eric, two nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, the whole Convry family, the Potts and Greene families, in addition to so many friends who have become family along the way.

On Sunday, at Our Saviour, Pastor Anita, our transitional pastor, read from Mark's Gospel 9:35-37: He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." In her sermon, Pastor Anita asked us to remember that we are called to choose the path that goes toward those in need, to use the gifts we have been given to be servants to them, especially the world's children who cannot be vaccinated at this time, are hungry, live in poverty, and live under a bridge at the Mexican border...to work for justice in each community and neighborhood (as the Bishop Miller says) and to build up the body of Christ (as Paul wrote to the Ephesians).

The people at the installation of our bishop were asked, "Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ? They answered, "We will, and we ask God to help us." Please thank God for and pray for our bishop, our transitional pastor, our supply pastors, volunteers, and our Zion family this week.

Peace be with you,
Laurel McCurdy, church council co-president

Zion Lutheran Church
New Hartford, NY
18 Pentecost



September 26, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Meditation on a Scottish Hymn, by Stewart Landon -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: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #719 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

Vs. 4 The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace; yet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.

Prayer of the Day

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

Sermon: Prayer -Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

This morning, I want to talk about our second reading, which comes from the letter of James. This is the last of several weeks of readings from this letter, which Martin Luther, I think unfairly, called “an epistle of straw.” On the other hand, I was just slightly startled when my own pastor, preaching from it a couple weeks ago called it, along with Ecclesiastes, her favorite book of the Bible, because it is so practical with its instruction on how to be church together.

Our reading today comes at the end of the letter as James offers his final instructions to the church community. To sum it all up, “Are any among you suffering? Pray. Are any cheerful? Pray. In need of healing, or forgiveness, pray, pray, pray.” It’s hard to imagine any church community where the answer to any of these questions James poses is no, no one here is suffering or sick or joyful or needing healing or forgiveness. So this letter, without a doubt, could find an audience in every church everywhere. On the other hand, as we all know, the specific context that the Biblical writer is addressing matters, and can give us additional insight into the passage.

What we know about the community James wrote to is that the conflicts in their church (there are always conflicts of some kind!) seem to have to do with class discrimination, where the wealthy-the comfortable and powerful-are treated differently, and better, than those who do not have financial means. James urges the community to stop showing partiality toward the rich and dishonoring the poor, and instead do the actual work of improving the lives of those who don’t currently have enough. He urges that faith not just be of the head and heart, but also of the heart and hands, put into daily practice, including the practice of hospitality, justice, care, worship, and prayer.

A few things about prayer according to James. First, we can notice that James urges prayer in every situation, in good times and in bad, in joy and suffering, intercessory prayer for those suffering, and praise and singing with those who are full of joy. Second, he urges people to pray for one another; in particular, if anyone is sick, the church should be called upon to pray over them and anoint them with oil. And then he says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” We can note that, for James, prayer is not just private and personal. Prayer is a social activity and public-it happens in community. When James says “so that you may be healed” he’s not talking about a singular second person. The word you is plural; it means “you all,” the whole community. When we people in the church pray for one another, even for the individual sickness, or sin sickness, the whole community is healed.

Finally, James comes right out with his main point: “Prayer is powerful and effective.” Then he gives the specific example of Elijah to make the point that prayer is powerful and effective. Elijah, a human being just like you and me, prayed for no rain and there was no rain. Then he prayed for rain and there was rain. Voila! Prayer is powerful and effective-prayer works.

Do you believe that prayer “works?” And, if so, how do you think prayer “works”? I admit that these questions are challenging for me. They are important questions, but I struggle sometimes to articulate answers, especially when I realize just how many different ways there are to answer. Even in a small group of friends or church members who all pray, there are a lot of differences in how we think about the effectiveness of prayer.

When I say prayer is effective and powerful, I generally mean the way I observe it working most obviously to me-that it changes me. Through prayer, I have come to care more about others and then take action to care for them. I have felt prayer comfort me when there is no action I can do to make things better for another person. Prayer has stilled my anxious soul and made me more compassionate, I believe, through spending time listening to and speaking to the One who is not anxious, who is compassionate, God. And praying has connected me to the other people who are praying in the room, in the world, and made me feel like I am part of something bigger, something good. But I simply have never believed that my prayers can cause God to do anything for someone else that God is not already doing for them, that my praying or anyone else’s can change what God does. That’s because I believe, and this is one of the deepest beliefs I hold, that God is already doing everything God can for the world and everything in it to make it more loving, whole, healed, beautiful, and good.

So I tend to guard against praying to what is often called a “parking spot God.” “God, please let me get a good parking spot when I turn the corner.” The idea that I would ask God for a good parking spot, and God would grant that prayer because....I’m somehow more deserving, or even a better pray-er, than someone behind me who is looking for a spot to park and maybe has an elderly grandmother or a disabled child in their car? That seems to me very wrong, and so, for me, no parking spot God, and no parking spot prayers. It’s why I don’t like James’ example about Elijah. It’s like prayer is just for magic of some kind. We all know that, sometimes, everyone is praying for rain, and no rain comes in time, and sometimes the most heartfelt prayer is for the rain to stop, but it doesn’t, and the floods come.

And, of course, James knows that too. So what is he doing with the argument he makes about prayer? I was listening recently to some other young pastors talk about this scripture passage and prayer. All of them, to varying degrees, were, like

me, cautious about any thinking about prayer that would give in to trivializing or magical thinking, “parking spot God” praying. Except this one pastor, who said proudly that she prays for parking spots, and every other small and trivial, selfish and secret, big and ambitious, desire of her heart. She does so unashamedly and nearly constantly, she said, because to her, it is not about thinking that she can bend God to her will with her prayers. Instead, by praying about everything, by asking for everything, including parking spots and healing in all things for herself and for others, among so much else, she is acknowledging that God already knows every desire, every pull and tug on her heart, and she is coming closer to God by coming clean with those desires. And, most of all, she said, she prays that way because, in doing so, she is acknowledging her dependence upon God, just her total dependence upon God for everything. Asking for even the smallest and most trivial thing, and asking for the most impossible thing, and everything in between, is her way of remembering that God is God and she is in a life of, a struggle of, faith trying to trust God.

Wow. If prayer is powerful and effective, maybe that’s how. And so maybe I should just pray more, more unrestrainedly, and, as Luther said in the Small Catechism, “with all boldness and confidence,” and not worry about any possibly false impression I might be giving myself or God or the people around me that I think I’m controlling the world through my prayers.

Maybe our prayers work to remind us that we are not in control at all, that we depend on someone who hears us, who knows us, who loves us, and also to remind us that there are some things we can do to bring us closer to the goodness and love of God in the world. If that’s even a little bit what happens, and I think it is, then prayer is powerful and effective indeed. And it explains a lot about how prayer works to return the wandering and lost back to the truth, back to God. 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: They’ll Know We are Christians by our Love –Kelli Watson

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

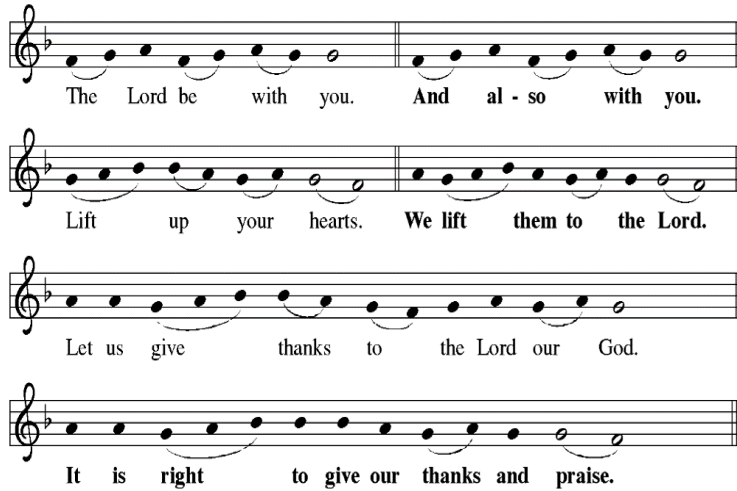
We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, greeters, ushers, sexton, office manager, and technologist. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. 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, Chuck Carlson, comfort for Fran King, Claudia, Shirley, healing for Joyce, Carole, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Jeanette, David, Ed and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

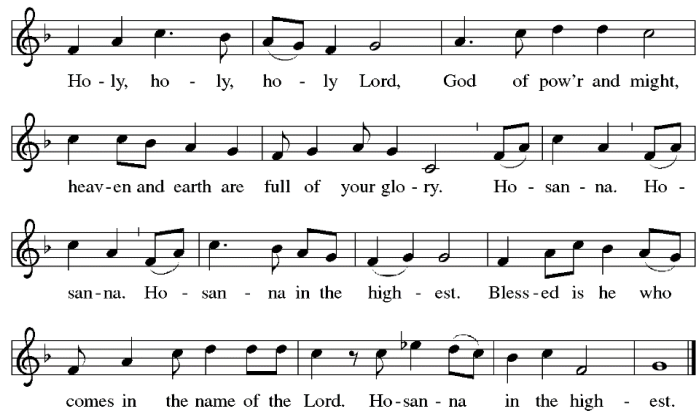
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart, vs. 1 & 4* Hymn #800 -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.

Vs. 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filing all my frame: the baptism of the heav'n descended dove, my heart and altar, and your love the flame.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Exaltation*, by Robert J. Hughes -Kelli Watson

Thank you for being with us! If you've made it this far in the newsletter, that's great.. keep going.. there's more!



Note of Gratitude:

Thank you to Jack Henke for all the time and effort he so freely gave while helping me discover my family history and their connection to the early history of Zion Lutheran Church. Jack not only sent me copies of handwritten documents, but he also sent me newspaper articles about my family.

I would also like to thank Sara for her timely action in transferring my questions to Jack. Because of the time differences, my first contact was well after business hours. That didn't deter Sara, who contacted me and sent an email off to Jack. Also, every time I spoke to Sara on the phone, she was so helpful and friendly; I could hear her smile in her voice.

I am grateful to both Jack and Sara for making me feel so welcome. I will be visiting Zion the next time I'm in NY!

Best regards,
Susan Modzelewski

WELCA is sponsoring a *Pack the Freezers* event to restock the Your Neighbors freezers housed at Zion! You can help by – Picking up trays, labels, lids, and instruction sheets at Zion to prepare and assemble meals at home ahead of time. Please take some gloves for your meal preparation. Prepared meals can be dropped off at Zion during the week of Sept. 27-Sept. 30 during office hours, 9:30am – 1:30pm or on **Saturday, Oct. 2nd from 10-12.**

- Please contact Patsy or Sara if you're planning to prepare/bring a dish.
- We're looking for 4-5 people to help pack meals after worship on Oct. 3. Please see the sign-up sheet or call Patsy if you can help, 315-796-2985. *Gloves & face masks will be worn, and packing will be done in the Fellowship Hall so that we can maintain social distancing, etc.* Soups are also needed – containers available at church. *Thank you!*

Thank you to Patsy, Fran, Linda, and Ted for cleaning the kitchen to get it ready for the re-launching of Your Neighbors! It was productive and, believe it or not, fun!



October Birthdays - Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!!

Kathryn Kuhr	1	Timothy Owens	18
David Stevens	4	Jim Smith	18
Kerstin Soykan	4	Mary Senn	21
Fran King	5	Rusty Pentland	21
David Meneses	8	Jacky Marscher	21
Wendy Barrett	11	Isabel Silva	22
John Inserra	11	Emily Sowers	23
Betty Schieble	11	John Dowd	25
Jeanne Gymburch	12	Sandra Russell	26
Curtis Pulliam	16	Abigail LaFave	30


Given to the Glory of God

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Barb Reinshagen	Roof Fund	Jeanne Gymburch
Claudia Trad	Memorial Fund	Linda White & family
Barbara Reinshagen	Building Fund	Lois McAllister
Randy Richards	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Randy Richards	Building Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Barbara Reinshagen	Roof Fund	Wendy Stevens
Doris Berry	Roof Fund	Wendy Stevens
Michael Gilleece	Roof Fund	Wendy Stevens
<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Our mom, Linda White	Building Fund	Laura & Duff Campbell
Laurel McCurdy	World Hunger	Don & Wanda Gregory
Pastor Beiswenger	Zion Food Ministry	Don & Wanda Gregory
Jack Henke	Local Food Pantry	Susan Modzelewski

	August 2021 Treasurer's Report			
	August 2021	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 8,485.95	\$ 102,712.80	\$ 109,266.67	\$ (6,553.87)
Other Income	\$ 301.26	\$ 24,130.93	\$ 19,465.34	\$ 4,665.59
Total Income	\$ 8,787.21	\$ 126,843.73	\$ 128,732.01	\$ (1,888.28)
Total Expense	\$ 12,061.55	\$ 100,485.68	\$ 151,675.54	\$ (51,189.86)
Net Income	\$ (3,274.34)	\$ 26,358.05	\$ (22,943.53)	\$ 49,301.58

OCTOBER WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE:	WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	GREETERS	USHERS
October 3	Carl Schmitt		
October 10	Fran LaGase		
October 17	Karen Toepp		
October 24	Wendy Stevens		
October 31	John Blackburn		



Come, Lord Jesus, our quest to be,

And bless these gifts

Bestowed by Thee.

And bless our loved ones everywhere,

And keep them in your loving care.

Amen