

Pentecost 15 Leadership Letter September 13, 2020

Information and Updates for the Week Ahead:

- Please join us for worship this Sunday at 10:00 AM. This Sunday's worship service on the Zoom platform continues for those with internet access via computer, tablet, smart phone, or through the livestream of YouTube. Those who choose to call in may listen from their phone. You can also continue participating in Zion's virtual Sunday 10:00 AM worship service by utilizing the Service of the Word template provided later in this newsletter. Feel free to use the Service of the Word at any time if you aren't able to join us in spirit at 10:00 AM on Sunday.

To join this Sunday's service, same log-in info as last week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwwSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> Meeting ID: 843-5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, One tap mobile, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654# US (New York)

-If you would prefer to view the service via livestream on our YouTube channel, you can do so by visiting our page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbCe2z7-bIPvxp62lA>. Thanks, Shawn, for developing this option!

-WELCA is collecting donations for back to school kits. They are collecting notebooks, scissors, rulers, pencils, pens, erasers, and crayons. They have many complete kits already to support children in our community and are still working to complete several remaining kits. Any extra supplies will be donated to teachers in our community, whose budgets are especially limited this year. I was inspired by the wonderful response during Sunday's fellowship time to provide a few of these items! Let's help WELCA complete those remaining kits and support local children and teachers. Contact Kim Ritchie for additional details.

-The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at Zion this Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10-3pm. If you would like to donate, you can make an appointment to give blood at: www.redcross.org. Their last drive in our fellowship hall was a great success. Let's continue to support the health of our community during these critical times!

-Your Neighbors will hold their Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 19th. This will be a full meal, including a main dish and two sides, for \$10. The fundraiser will be a drive through this year, so you can pick some up for yourself and a hungry neighbor. Yum! Funds will support the Your Neighbors program as they re-envision their service to our community.

-This week we are praying for the health of Ashley's baby, who was born prematurely and is currently in the NICU. We also pray for teachers and students who are starting school this week and for all those listed in the prayers of the people.

-Sunday's fellowship period included a time in which we shared our favorite coffee mugs! We saw princess teacups and sports teams, pictures of grandchildren and vacation memories, and precious gifts from friends and relatives. Thanks to Kim Marscher for organizing the event.

I loved Pastor Janet's comment in this week's sermon about her own experience with reading her Bible. She is sure that someone sneaks in at night and adds verses to her Bible, because she continues to find insights that weren't there before! She described spending time in God's word as a daily practice, where the stories are not just about ancient people, but indeed speak to our lives today. I pray that your week will be filled with God's grace for the present moment.

Peace,
Kristen Burson and Mark Thompson
Church Council co-presidents

Pentecost 15



SERVICE OF THE WORD
GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: God, When Human Bonds Are Broken #603, Verses 1, 2, & 3 –*Mary Senn*

Vs. 1 God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.

Vs. 2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.

Vs. 3 You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50: 15-21

Second Reading: Romans: 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon: *Forgiveness* -Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

This morning I want to talk about forgiveness. There is a danger for a preacher who talks about forgiveness in a way that makes it seem like it is more important to forgive a person or system that is causing great harm than it is to actually stop the hurt and harm from occurring. The classic example is the person who hears a sermon about forgiveness and feels that they have no recourse but to continue to forgive a person who is abusing them, a spouse, or parent, for example. So hear me when I say that when there is continuing abuse, there is no expectation to forgive without repentance and actual change in behavior or restitution. Boundaries matter, and boundaries of protection may be required moving forward even after forgiveness occurs. Where injustice continues, forgiveness is not a shortcut to making things right, and even if and when forgiveness occurs, it does deny that harm or hurt was real.

A second important caveat is this: Forgiveness often sounds like something that can be checked off a to-do list. Say my prayers, go to church, finish the assignment, make dinner, do 30 minutes of exercise, ask for forgiveness, grant forgiveness, done. No. Actual forgiveness, especially for something that was truly hurtful, just doesn't work that way. The closest analogy I can think of for what forgiveness is really like, is to say that it is a little like grief. Grief is not something that you achieve or complete, or start and finish, and certainly not in a set amount of time. As most of us know, grief is a process. There is no right way to experience it, and you don't finish it. You move through it, and you move around in it, usually for a long time, and it goes forward and backward and up and down. Forgiveness can be like that, like grieving, or healing, where it is a long slow process, two steps forward and sometimes three steps back.

The Christian writer, C.S. Lewis, once made a note in his journal, "Last week, while at prayer, I suddenly discovered-or felt as if I did-that I had really forgiven someone I have been trying to forgive for over thirty years. Trying, and praying that I might." We all pray, every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, that our own trespasses, debts, sins, would be forgiven, even as we forgive those who have sinned against us. We pray that we would forgive all the time, but prayers, as we know, are answered in God's time and ways, not our own. Forgiveness may require patience, effort, prayer, and much more, and sometimes we see it only in the rear-view mirror. At other times, practicing forgiveness can produce dramatic transformations in our lives, psychologically, socially, and politically. It can feel like a cool drink of water to the one who forgives as well as the one who has been thirsting for forgiveness. It allows us to stop being chained to the past and move forward.

Joseph, for example, forgives his brothers for selling him into slavery in a way that lets go of the past in order to look ahead to a new relationship with them and himself in the future. Forgiveness seems to go hand in hand with his own freedom and theological imagination. "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good." He recognizes that what they did really was wrong but implies that God has been able to make a meaning for the future out of the wreckage.

So, to our reading from Matthew. Peter's question: "If a member of the church sins against me, how many times should I forgive, seven times?" Jesus answer: "No seventy-seven times: and then he tells a parable of the kingdom of heaven about monetary debt and settling of accounts. As with many kingdom of heaven parables, the method involves hyperbole ~ examples far beyond the normal conditions of life.

The servant of the king owes the monarch 10,000 talents. One talent is about 6,000 denarii (give or take), with each denarius worth a day's wage for a laborer. Thus, the first servant owes about 60 million denarii, an amount so large that it exceeds the national debt of a small country. No person could repay it, even if they were to sell themselves and their family into servitude for several lifetimes. In an outrageous act of generosity and mercy, the king graciously forgives this unforgivable debt.

The second servant owes 100 denarii. It is a decent amount of money, but like the number seven in Peter's question, it is measurable—miniscule by comparison to the debt that was forgiven by the king. When the forgiven servant refuses to extend compassion (he grabs him and begins to choke him!), it is no wonder that the king becomes angry. He has granted his servant a level of forgiveness that exceeds imagination and, yet, that servant is unwilling to offer even the smallest mercy to another person.

Here's my favorite commentary on this passage: "In a parable full of ridiculous proportions, this is the most ridiculous movement yet. *This would never happen.* It would almost be like a bank that has been bailed out of billions of dollars worth of loans built on a failed scheme of sub-zero interest rates, turning around and foreclosing on a house that someone bought while taking advantage of those rates. It would be like Christians, presuming forgiveness for an imperial history that includes all hundreds of years of violence and heinous coercion, calling Muslims "violent" because of the actions of a small portion of Islamic extremists. It would be like a church member, having been forgiven of all manner of sinfulness, turning toward a gay or lesbian person and saying, 'You don't belong here.' C'mon, Jesus. This kind of stuff never happens!"

Oh, it does, all the time, and we ourselves do it or don't question it. But why? Why in the world would someone who has received this immeasurable gift begrudge someone else a small request? The parable doesn't explain the servant's refusal to forgive the debt owed to him. Why would we refuse to pass on a small fraction of what we have so generously been given? We can only speculate on what part of human nature is at work here. Greed, ingratitude, embarrassment, privilege. **What keeps us from offering compassion and mercy to others when we have received so much?**

For some reason, we want to think that forgiveness, whether for a slight in a relationship or for a debt owed, is something that we can keep track of on a scorecard. But Jesus clearly wants Peter to grasp that forgiveness is not a counting game. It is not metered, and it is not a matter of tallies and counts. It is not proportional, nor is it transactional. That's why he goes for the big numbers that can't be counted or fathomed: to make the point that Peter's question, "How many times must we forgive?" is the wrong question.

And that brings us to the end of the story in which Jesus tells about the king who basically would torture the servant whose debt was forgiven, until he would instead repay the immeasurable debt. What does this mean? Is there a punishment for those who don't forgive as they have been forgiven? The writer Anne Lamott writes frequently about her struggles to forgive others, about how she sometimes tends her grudges with loving care, wanting to hold on to her righteous indignation more than anything. But it never gives the pleasure she expects. In fact, she says, "withholding forgiveness is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die." So maybe there is sometimes suffering in our refusal to forgive, but it hardly needs God to administer it.

Forgiving someone, on the other hand, is not the whole of redemption or reconciliation, not by a long shot, but it can be the start of something. It can be the beginning of a renewal of a friendship, or of self-respect. It can be the beginning of allowing a broken marriage to heal or the people who were in it to move into new relationships. It can be the beginning of letting go of mistakes or weights that drag us down. Forgiving someone doesn't mean "what you did was okay." It may just mean, "I am setting it down, so you, or I, or both of us, can be free."

What does God do when we struggle to forgive? When we don't forgive others in spite of our immeasurable debts, God has forgiven us. Is God like the king who reneges on the debt forgiveness and makes us pay the entire amount after all? Here is the witness from today's Psalm (103:1-13). May it be to all of us who have struggled, at some time, to forgive as we have been forgiven: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us...Bless the Lord, O my soul." 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. Amen.

ANTHEM: Prelude VIII from The Well-Tempered Clavichord J. S. Bach

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. 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, Gail, continued prayers for Claudia and Fran with upcoming medical decisions, for peace and comfort for the family of Patty Ahlstrom, prayers for a healthy birth of a baby who is having complications, prayers for Beverly- whose son just died and husband is near death, Edie Marie, Suzee, Michael Gillece and family, for the students and teachers who are back to school learning their new online routines, the Nelson family, Your Neighbors clients, prayers for Ashley's baby, who was born prematurely and is currently in the NICU, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us unto the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

Closing Hymn: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven #864, Verses 1 & 2* *Mary Senn*

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. 2 God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for being with us today.

Janet Burton became an active part of Zion when Holy Communion Lutheran Church merged with our congregation in 1971. While a member, she volunteered at the Lutheran Home, enjoyed our church women's fellowship, and served as church historian for many years. In the latter role, she organized sections of our archives, most notably the Holy Communion memorabilia. She provided photographs for James Pula's "Ethnic Utica" and Philip Bean's "Deutschtum on the Mohawk" and was cited in those publications. A warm, affable lady, whose spirit enlivened many a conversation, Janet will be missed by all who knew her. Janet passed away on September 6, 2020, at Elderwood in Lake Placid.

Funeral arrangements are in care of the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home in Saranac Lake. Janet's wishes were to have no calling hours. Cremation followed immediately upon her death and following a graveside service at the convenience of the family, her ashes will be interred in Forest Hill Cemetery.

1828. Novbr.	Nomen, Patria, Aetas	Nomen et conditio patris	Studium
	Andreas Wetzel geb. d. 18 ^{ten} Januarii 1810	Andreas Wetzel Lehrer in Weilimdorf	Medicina 6. 15.
	Julius Heinrich Kirchhoff geb. d. 23 ^{ten} Jan. 1811	Julius Kirchhoff Ampf in Weilimdorf	Medicina 6. 15.

A Gift from St. Oswald's

Edeltraud John, historian of St. Oswald's Church, Weilimdorf, Germany, emailed me a neat document related to Zion's history. Our founder, the Rev. Andrew Wetzel, was baptized and confirmed in St. Oswald's. The pastor received his undergraduate education at the University of Tubingen, Baden-Wurtemberg - now one of Germany's "universities of excellence."

Edeltraud contacted the university's archives librarian and obtained a copy of Pastor Wetzel's enrollment in 1828. The aged document contains three columns. The left lists the student's name, date of birth, and hometown. The center notes his father's name and occupation. The right cites his course of study.

The upper screenshot shows the page's heading, the lower captures the Wetzel entry.

The translation of the Wetzel entry: left column - Andreas Wetzel, born in Weilimdorf, January 27, 1808; center column - Andreas Wetzel, father, also from Weilimdorf; right column - major - philosophy.

"Danke schoen" to Edeltraud for continuing to remember Zion!

	geb. d. 27 ^{ten} Jan. August 1808	Andreas Wetzel Lehrer in Weilimdorf	Philosophie 3.
	Andreas Wetzel geb. d. 27 ^{ten} Jan. 1808	Andreas Wetzel Lehrer in Weilimdorf	Philosophie 3.

Provided by Jack Henke

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS UPDATE - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown we were gathering supplies for LWR kits (Personal Care, School, Baby Care and Sewing kits). Due to the shutdown, all LWR pick-ups were cancelled and our supplies held at church. LWR is now working to schedule pickups later this fall. Based on current inventory of those kit items already donated by Zion members, we will focus on completing 10 Personal Care and 6 School Kits. We need a few more school kit items – 70 count wide or college ruled notebooks (14); 16 or 24 count boxes of crayons (2); blunt scissors(1); rulers (2); pencil sharpeners(2); pens(8); and erasers(1). Items can be dropped off at church on Wednesday, Sept. 16th, between 1:00 – 5:00pm. The drop-off boxes will be located in the coat room near the parking lot entrance. Sara will be at church during this time to let folks in. Once we have all the kit items, the Kits will be boxed up and prepared for shipping.

GATHERING AS WOMEN– As fall approaches, we have planned some opportunities for us to gather via Zoom. As time progresses, we will consider when it is right to move to in-person. Please consider joining us for one of these upcoming activities. Look for Zoom log-in information in the weekly newsletters. Monthly gatherings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm beginning September 17th. Gatherings will be planned for an hour time frame. Thank you to the members of our planning group, Patsy Glista, Fran Holzberger, Kim Marscher, and Kim Ritchie, who will facilitate our times together. Programs for the next three months are:

September 17th– Introduction to All Things Women of the ELCA. Join us to learn about the many resources available from the ELCA for women including newsletters, blogs, devotions, prayer and Bible study resources. You may want to check out the website at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

October 15th– Counting Our Blessings. As we enter the season of harvest and thanksgiving, we will gather to share those things for which we are thankful.

November 19th– Advent Preparations. A fun time of craft and Advent preparation ideas led by Fran Holzberger. Information about supplies will be provided in advance so you can gather things to work along and create your own Advent wreath or other Advent practice. Plan to include the whole family in this gathering.

A Call to Prayer in the Time of a Pandemic – Join with others from Zion and women across the country in this call to prayer, to be practiced every Tuesday at noon. Additionally, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning October 13th we will offer a 15-minute Zoom Prayer time. In all other weeks, we invite you to pray where you are on Tuesdays at noon. A resource to use for this time can be downloaded here <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/pray-with-lutheran-women-across-the-church-every-tuesday-at-noon> and is also provided below.



A CALL TO PRAYER IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC: This is a call to prayer, to be practiced every Tuesday at noon in your time zone. (Use it daily, if you wish). **READ:** Romans: 38-39. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." **PRAY:** follow each petition by naming specific individuals or needs; add additional petitions as needed: For those who are ill; for those with little access to healthcare; for healthcare workers; for those who feel isolated; for those who are in unsafe places; for those who are anxious or worried; for leaders facing difficult decisions; for those who continue to work in challenging settings; for those driven by greed or careless disregard. **REFLECT:** Reflect on these questions. You may even be inspired to journal daily with these questions. Consider our resource, Journaling: Create Your Own Sacred Writings." Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). How are you loving yourself today? What is your self-care strategy? How are you loving your neighbor today? "For we will rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Enjoy our 20th recipe exchange provided to us by chef Jon Daly

Apple Cider Doughnut Cake



Ingredients: Yellow cake mix (JUST the dry mix), $\frac{3}{4}$ cup apple cider, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup apple sauce, 3 eggs, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, $\frac{1}{8}$ cup cinnamon, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter. **Optional Apple Cider Glaze Dip:** 1 cup powdered sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup apple cider.

Directions: 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. 2. In a large mixing bowl, beat the dry cake mix, apple cider, apple sauce, water, and eggs. 3. Add in the brown sugar and vanilla to the cake mix batter. 4. Pour the mixture into a well-greased bundt pan. 5. Place bundt pan on center rack and bake for 45 minutes.

Test with a toothpick by sticking into the middle of the cake, if it comes out clean it is ready. Remove from heat and allow to cool on a wire rack for 20 minutes. **Apple Cider**

Glaze Topping: 1. While the cake is cooking, prepare the apple cider glaze by adding powdered sugar and the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup apple cider to a small bowl and whisking them together

until you reach your desired consistency. 2. In a separate bowl, mix together the cinnamon and sugar. 3. Once the cake has cooled, brush the entire surface of the cake with melted butter. Rub the cinnamon sugar mixture until the whole cake is evenly coated. 4. Serve the cake with the apple cider glaze dipping sauce and enjoy!

Cinnamon Sugar Topping: Cinnamon sugar ratios is a very personal thing (LOL). Some people like more cinnamon, others like more sugar. You do you with this. I prefer a 2:1 ratio (2 sugar to 1 cinnamon). Some others prefer even less cinnamon or some more. If you aren't sure what side of the cinnamon-sugar wagon you are on, start out with less cinnamon and you can always add more! Whatever you choose to do, you cannot mess it up – it will be delicious either way!

TIP: When adding the cinnamon-sugar and butter topping, I brushed the butter onto the cake and let it set for just about a minute. You want it to be slightly wet, so it holds the sugar, but not so much that it absorbs it into the cake. What I would say is to mix the cinnamon and sugar together after brushing the butter on the cake while you're waiting for that perfect level of moisture. That should give it just the right amount of time. And, if needed, add an extra layer of sugar.

SUBSTITUTIONS/ADDITIONS: Cake Mix: Any type of yellow cake mix will work for this cake. You could also use a white cake mix or a pumpkin spice cake mix. You could also use a homemade yellow or white cake if you have a recipe that you love.

Toppings: I like to serve this cake with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream or whipped topping. It's the perfect final touch. Then, as a garnish, I like to sprinkle a little extra cinnamon on top or drizzle the cake with warm caramel. It's so yummy! But of course, you have to serve it with a cold glass of fresh apple cider!

Thank you for your continued prayers for Fran & Claudia King, it means so much to us.



Book Group planned: **Monday, Sept. 28th (weather date Sept. 30th) and Monday, Oct. 5th (weather date Oct. 7th) from 2-3:30 PM** Zion members and friends are invited to join an outdoor in-person book group looking at a novel recommended by our synod: "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd, author of "The Secret Life of Bees." This is a challenging fictional imagining of Jesus' life and times. The book is available from your favorite bookseller - Kim got a large print version from Amazon for under \$20. It's also available in ebook and audible versions. The group will meet outside under a pavilion at Jim and Kim Marscher's home (8361 Woods

Highway, off of Route 5 in New Hartford). **The largest number we can accommodate is 10 people. Please call or text Kim at 315-794-6233 or email at kmarscher@yahoo.com.** If attending, please bring your favorite drink and a pillow for your chair! We look forward to seeing you and reading together.