

Pentecost 20 Leadership Letter, October 18, 2020

To our Zion Family,

This past Sunday we were again blessed to have Rev. Eldon DeWeerth lead our service, joining us from his home in Chicago. (Isn't technology wonderful, at least most of the time!?) Rev. Eldon shared his thoughts on one of the most beloved Psalms, the 23rd Psalm, which he described as "a trust psalm." The words of that psalm have served as a source of comfort for generations, helping us through the most difficult of times. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Let us be comforted by these words yet again, reminded that our loving God is with us through it all.

-Announcements and updates:

-We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 10:00 AM. This service is available on the Zoom platform for those with internet access via computer, tablet, smart phone, or through the Livestream on YouTube. Those who choose to may call in to 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 via Zoom, same log-in info as last week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> 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>.

-As most of you already know, we will offer our first return to in-person worship service on Oct. 25th. A detailed description of what to expect for those attending this service can be found on pages 6-8 of this document. For those not yet ready to return to the sanctuary, we will continue to offer this Sunday service on Zoom, Livestreamed on Facebook, and through the printed Service of the Word. Those who choose to may still call in to listen from their phone.

-The worship team for the Oct. 25th service will have a walk-through on Oct. 19th to prepare for our first in-person gathering. Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth will serve as our supply pastor and Wendy Stevens as our worship assistant for this first in-person worship service.

-The church council met on Oct. 12th for its regular monthly meeting. We had a full agenda and discussed the Oct. 25th in-person worship service and plans of upcoming services, including Christmas. Council approved the expenditure for the equipment needed to continue Zooming our Sunday service for Oct. 25th and beyond. We discussed the process of preparing our annual budget, along with inviting new members to join the church council.

-We ask for your continued prayers for Rusty and Bill Pentland, Fran and Claudia King, Norm and Patsy Glista, and all those included in our prayers of the congregation this past Sunday. If you know of anyone we should specifically keep in our prayers, please let Sara know by leaving a message on the office phone (315-732-4110) or with an email (office@zionluth.com).

-We are still looking for a volunteer to serve as a liaison with the Red Cross for future Blood Drives. The next Blood Drive is scheduled at Zion for Nov. 21st.

-The church council will be looking for new council members to replace those completing their three-year terms in February 2021, and also to fill current vacancies. If you have any interest in serving on council starting in February, we invite your expression of interest. Please contact the nominating committee members: Jeanne Gymburch (jgymburch@aol.com), Kim Ritchie (kimritchieus@yahoo.com), Michele Lasher (michlsh@aol.com), or Mark Thompson (mdthompsonphd@gmail.com).

-CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: Kristen and Mark had a recent Zoom meeting with Dean Wolling and Julie Grindle, Assistant to the Bishop, to finalize compensation issues. The letter of recommendation from Rev. Eldon DeWeerth has been received by the Synod, completing our file and all required paperwork. Zion's MSP has been approved by the Bishop's office and they are now actively looking for prospective candidates that are a match for our MSP.

-Ben Silva has recently stepped into the Sexton role at Zion, at least for the near future. Shawn Lockwood has stepped back from the sexton role but continues as our technologist.

In addition to his reflections of the 23rd Psalm, Reverend Elden's sermon this past Sunday also reminded us of the message that Paul delivered in his letter to the Philippians (4:1-9). In Paul's words, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus...The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of Peace shall be with you." May the words of the 23rd Psalm and Paul's letter to the people of Phillipi serve as sources of comfort and support for us in the week(s) ahead.

Peace be with you all,
Mark Thompson and Kristen Burson, church council co-presidents



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: *Take My Life, That I May Be* #685, Verses 1, 3, & 4 –*Mary Senn*

Vs. 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Vs. 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Vs. 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Sermon: *Glory Be* –*Rev. Janet Hoover*

We live in a world driven by greatness, motivated by a need to claim a top position for ourselves. Florida calls itself the Sunshine State—even though meteorologists tell us that it is only the sixth most sunny state. New Jersey license plates proclaim it the Garden State—even though it doesn't lead the nation in farming or agriculture. Winterset, Iowa prides itself on being the birthplace of John Wayne—the main street in town is called John Wayne Blvd, John Wayne's portrait at one time was painted larger than life on the town garbage truck, and all roads lead to the house where he was born and lived for only a year before his family moved west. Nations, states, towns, churches, and individuals—we all want to sing a song of greatness. We all want to be somebody, know somebody, be connected to somebody whose greatness may just rub off on us so that we, too, might bask in their glory. And it is this longing that gets us into so much trouble, for it fosters self-centeredness, greed, bigotry, revenge...you know the list. The long painful history of humankind is the story of people over and again choosing power over love, control over compassion, being a leader over being led. A prime example is our text for today. Jesus and his disciples are on the road—traveling to Jerusalem—and as they move toward this seat of Jewish power and Roman might, two of Jesus' disciples come up to him...James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Now three times Jesus has told them that he is heading toward a cross. They have seen him reach out to the poor and the wounded, those who stand in the shadows. And what do they say? Jesus, we want to be the first and second vice president in your kingdom of glory. But Jesus isn't going into Jerusalem to win a military or political victory. Jesus isn't about to conquer his enemies with power and might. Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die. He tells them: "You don't know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink? Are you able to share the baptism in which I am about to be plunged? I'm heading to the cross—do you really want to be at my right and my left?" The Zebedee brothers obviously don't get it, for their immediate reply is: Sure. Now at this point the misunderstanding about the nature of the kingdom of God affects the rest of the disciples as well. They worry that James and John are getting preferential treatment, that their own places in the kingdom are in jeopardy. And squabbling ensues.

Tom Long tells us that this passage portrays the disciples as so dense, so dull of brain, that if it weren't so tragic, it would be funny. Imagine, he says, that this is a scene from a war movie with Jesus as the commander—sort of a John Wayne type-character. Backing him up are his troops, played by Moe, Larry, and Curly.

Jesus looks around and realizes that his army is trapped, their only hope is to run straight through the enemy's machine guns. Jesus says, "I'm going to jump out, run through the mine fields, up past the machine guns, and get help. I will very likely die in the process. Who will go with me?" His followers say, "We have matching blazers and designer ties, can we sit on either side of the hill with you when you get there?" Jesus replies, "The question is—are you able to go through the mine fields and the machine guns?" Say Moe, Larry, and Curly, "Oh that...oh, sure." Poor confused disciples. Jesus is striding on ahead of them for a show-down. And the disciples are confused, and amazed, and scared. It was all new to them. It was a troubling kind of grace that undercut all of their systems. It was a love that included Jews and Gentiles. It was an upside-down kind of justice which went to those considered the dregs of society and invited them in, while the rich and powerful were left outside. This good news of Jesus was new to them. We, however, have heard it over and over. We hear: The last will be first and the first last, love your neighbor as yourself, and we say—sure, whatever. We have learned how to live with his tough teachings. How to rationalize, rearrange, justify. We have trimmed them down, smoothed away the rough edges, and made them more comfortable for the long-term. We do that, I think, because we have a Zebedee gene in our own DNA. James and John put into words what we do in our lives. Although their brashness may not be our style, the motive underlying their request is often the motive directing our actions. Shared glory, honored positions, closeness to powerful people—these are popular means of being somebody. If we can't be the honored guest or the one with the power, we at least want to rub elbows with it. But Jesus holds us back. "Wait a minute, he says. Think about what you're doing. I am on a road to glory, but it isn't going to end up with a chauffeur-driven limousine, a home on the Riviera, and box seats for the World Series. The road to glory leads through suffering straight to the cross." Like the sons of Zebedee, we want the glory, but the cross? Forget about it. We want God's peace within ourselves and throughout the world, but we want none of the tension, none of the loss of our own comfort. We want glory served on a silver platter—no pain, no loneliness, no anxiety, no sacrifices. The cup from which Jesus drank is self-emptying love, the giving of one's own life for others. And that isn't easy. The baptism with which he was baptized is a burial of the old world, with its power games and the rising of God's reign of justice, generosity, and joy. The world's image of greatness is hierarchical, with the greatest at the pinnacle of the pyramid—the closer one gets to the pinnacle, the closer one is to greatness. But the way of Jesus leads in another direction. Henri Nouwen writes: The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which the world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross. It is not a leadership of power and control, but a leadership of powerlessness and humility in which love is made manifest. It is offering our total being—our hope and despair, our doubts and our faith, our fear and our courage, our ambition and our humility. Follow me, the leader says, and the rest of the group answers: we're right behind you. Which usually means they are willing to let the leader take the heat, pay the price.

In the life of discipleship, right behind Jesus is the only place we can be, for he has formed the very definition of what it means to be a people of God. He has suffered and died for us, and through his resurrection he guides us with hope and strength. When we say we're right behind you—we are exactly where we should be. James and John may not have understood what they were asking when they asked to be seated near Jesus, but they were asking the right person. To follow Christ is a new adventure all the time, and a process that moves us into new situations that we have never encountered before. To follow Jesus is to be open to God's leading in every situation, to listen for God's new Word, to be aware that there is still more light and truth to break forth from God. Faith is not lived in the past, it is lived today with a kind of energetic expectation that this moment, right now, is a moment that God has made. We live in a world of problems and struggle, filled with people who are capable of brutality—and heroism, kindness—and thoughtlessness, greed, and generosity. It is no easy road to glory. We count our dollars, God looks at our wounds. We count our worth by things we have gained and accumulated, honors we have achieved. God looks at what we have given away. Following Jesus isn't easy. It doesn't always seem like glory, but then maybe that is because we look at glory through human eyes. For us, glory is gold medals and sitting at the head table. But God sees it differently.

Before I was a minister, I was a fourth grade school teacher. I still remember back-to-school nights. Children and their parents would wander around the room where I had posted artwork and essays on the walls. Not all of the work was A level. Some of it was less than perfect but, through a parent's eyes, well...I would watch as sometimes eagerly, and sometimes with hesitation, the children would point to their painting or their story. And I would watch them stand a little taller and smile a little wider when their mother or father would say: How wonderful. What a good job. At the end of your journey, you will stand with God before the display of your life. If you're like me, you may wish you had a little more to show—a couple acts of heroism, some profound words of wisdom uttered at just the right time, an award or two. But if you're like me, your display may run along the lines of: stacks of peanut butter sandwiches prepared for lunch boxes, laundry folded, bedtime stories told, hymns sung (not always on key), cups of coffee shared with friends, offering envelopes slipped into the plate, smiles exchanged with strangers, committee meetings attended. Your pictures may include scenes of: hospital waiting rooms, gardens tended, cars repaired, yards raked, dogs walked, babies rocked, wheelchairs pushed. If you're like me, those pictures

may seem embarrassingly inadequate compared to what is on the walls around you. But then, just as you are ready to melt into the ground with shame, there is an arm around your shoulder and a voice whispering: What a good job you've done. I'm so proud of you. Friends, that is glory. Through the eyes of God even the most ordinary task is alive with light and radiant with beauty. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen and 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: Simple Gifts -Barr

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. 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, healing for Norm, Rusty, Edween Ham, healing for Jim, the family of Robert Imobersteg, who passed away on October 1st, Claudia and Fran, Edie Marie, Suzee, prayers for Michael Gilleece and family, the Nelson family, Your Neighbors clients, prayers for Ashley's baby, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus 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: *We Give Thee but Thine Own #686, Verses 1, 2, & 4 -Mary Senn*

Vs. 1 We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Vs. 2 May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.

Vs. 4 And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be: what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

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.**

Preparing for our Return to In-person Worship

Zion's church council, the Task Force for Return to In-person Worship, and the Worship & Music Committee enthusiastically look forward to our first In-person Worship Service on Sunday, Oct. 25th, at 10:00 AM. We know that our congregants have a range of feelings about returning to Zion's sanctuary. For those planning to attend the Oct. 25th service in-person, this outline will provide a step-by-step outline of how we'll safely gather together for worship. For those who continue to worship from home, either via Zoom, Livestreaming on Facebook, watching the service during the week on YouTube, or utilizing the Service of the Word, we remain together in spirit and worship as a community in whatever way feels right for each of us at this time.

Our goal—a safe return to in-person worship; both parts are essential.

Here are steps we'll be following to accomplish our goal. Please read through the steps so you'll know what to expect should you decide to attend the Oct. 25th service in person.

Everyone who attends the service in our sanctuary will be required to wear a face covering, worn properly (covering nose and mouth), from the time you leave your car in the parking lot until you return there following the service. This is essential, and there will be no exceptions.

Plan to arrive earlier than usual, we suggest between 9:30-9:45 (at the latest). If you will need to use the elevator to get to the sanctuary, please arrive closer to 9:30.

We will be following CDC guidance about social distancing, maintaining a 6' distance from others not in your family unit at all times. If you see a line at the front door when you arrive in the parking lot, please remain in your car until the line shortens to allow for 6 feet distancing.

At the front door, you will be greeted by one of our congregants staffing the service. Your temperature will be taken with a no contact thermometer. Your temperature will need to be below 100 degrees in order to be allowed to enter the building. If your temperature is higher than 100, we will ask you to have a seat and have your temperature retaken after you cool down. If your temperature remains above 100, we'll have to ask you to return home and view the service via Zoom, livestreamed on Facebook, or utilize the Service of the Word.

After having your temperature taken, you'll step into the foyer and will be met by our next greeter, who will ask if you are able to answer "No" to the following five health-related questions:

1. Are you experiencing any of these symptoms associated with COVID-19 that are not caused by another condition? (E.g.—You may typically experience some congestion due to seasonal allergies. This would result in your answering "no" to this health question.)
 - Fever or chills • Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches • Headache
 - Recent loss of taste or smell • Sore throat
 - Congestion • Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
2. Within the past 14 days, have you had contact with anyone that you know had COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms?
3. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test for the active virus in the past 14 days?
4. Within the past 14 days, has a public health or medical professional told you to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?
5. In the past 14 days, have you traveled out-of-state to any currently restricted areas (aka "hot spots")?

Again, you will not be asked each of these individual questions. The greeter will simply say, "Are you able to answer 'No' to the 5 health-related questions?" You will simply answer "yes" or "no." If you cannot answer "no" to all five questions, we will have to ask you to refrain from attending the service in-person and return to your car. Please think about these questions before you leave your home to drive to church on Oct. 25th. If you can't answer "no," please stay home and worship in another way.

In case there is a need to be reminded of these questions, we will have them posted at the entrance.

After taking your temperature (below 100) and a "no" response re: the five health-related questions, we'll ask you to use hand sanitizer, provided at a table in the entrance, and then proceed to the sanctuary, either via the stairs or the elevator. Please remember to respect social distancing.

If you use the elevator, we ask that only two people, or one family unit, use the elevator at a time. There will be disinfectant wipes at the elevator entrance. Please take one wipe, use it to push the elevator button once inside, and discard in the trash as you leave the elevator. Please follow the same steps in reverse when you depart after the service.

Once you arrive at the Narthex outside the sanctuary, please continue to respect social distancing guidelines (6'). Even though we will have the understandable urge to connect with people, especially after not seeing one another in-person for so many months, we ask that you make your way into the sanctuary to find a seat as quickly as possible.

You can seat yourself. If you need assistance in finding a seat, please ask one of the ushers. They will be happy to assist.

The pews in the sanctuary are marked off, designating seats to occupy. We will use alternating rows in order to provide safe social distancing. Please do not sit any closer than 6 feet apart if there is someone else in your row. There are pieces of blue tape on the top of the pew where you can sit. Please sit behind the blue tape. "Sit behind the blue in the pew!" Family units can certainly sit together.

Many aspects of this service will be familiar, but there will be some differences to let you know about, so you're not caught by surprise. They are:

You will notice as you enter the sanctuary on October 25th that we will NOT be distributing bulletins to follow along with the service. Anyone who receives the Leadership Letter and Service of the Word from Sara by U. S. Mail is welcome to bring it with you to the service. For all those who receive these weekly documents by email, we suggest that you bring your smart phone or tablet, open it up once you are seated, and follow along. An alternative is to print the Service of the Word prior to coming to church on that Sunday. If you do bring printed materials, please take them home with you as you depart the sanctuary when the service is concluded.

Once you are seated, you'll notice that there are two 6' x 6' transparent screens at the front of the sanctuary. Rev. Jennifer DeWerth, our supply pastor for Oct. 25th, will be standing/seated behind one and Wendy Stevens, our worship assistant, will be standing/seated behind the other. Mary Senn will be at the organ, but not behind a screen. Rev. Jen, Wendy, and Mary will maintain social distance from one another and the congregation in the pews throughout the service.

In addition to the large transparent screens, there will be an air filtering machine near the front of the altar to circulate air. In addition, we plan to have windows open as weather conditions allow. We encourage you to bring your coats/sweaters into the sanctuary in case you might feel chilly. The circulation of fresh air helps reduce the chance of aerosols being transmitted.

Only Rev. Jennifer and Wendy will be speaking during the service, and they will do so from behind the transparent barriers. In order to minimize the spread of aerosols, there will not be any professed community prayer (e.g.—the Apostles' Creed or the Lord's Prayer) or singing. We know these are important components of our worship service but, at least for now, we are acting in a conservative manner to maximize safety for all.

Wendy will read some reminders at the start of the service. We are all creatures of habit, and reminders about what we can expect will help us all to remember.

Mary will be playing an opening hymn, an anthem, and a closing hymn, but we will not be singing individually or as a congregation due to the concern about the potential spread of aerosols.

Wendy will be reading the Apostles' Creed and Pastor Jennifer will be reading the Lord's Prayer for the congregation. We ask that you recite these prayers in your head, but not aloud.

We will not be having the distribution of communion at this first Sunday back, but plan to have communion at subsequent services in a safe way. We appreciate your patience with this decision for our first Sunday back together.

As the service concludes, we ask that you remain in your pews and follow the direction of the ushers for departing the sanctuary. Please follow their directions. We will start at the back of the church, leave one row at a time, and continue respecting social distancing. Wait for the ushers to indicate when it's okay for you to depart. Please keep 6 feet between you and the fellow congregant ahead of you as you leave. Please take all personal belongings, tissues, and any printed materials that you brought in with you as you leave.

Once in the Narthex, please continue to move either down the stairs or to the elevator to depart the church. If we congregate in the Narthex, even at social distances, that will result in a back-up for people looking to depart the sanctuary.

Once you are in the parking lot, people may be anxious to connect with others and have some fellowship. If you do decide to connect with others, please do so with your masks on, maintaining social distancing, and go to the outskirts of the parking lot in order to allow others to get to their cars. If you are connecting with others, please be very cognizant of safety, as cars will be driving through the parking lot.

Our apologies for such a long and detailed document. We can't wait to see as many of you as possible who feel ready to return to our sanctuary to worship together in-person. However, we feel a genuine and significant responsibility to do our best to safeguard the safety and well-being of each and every member of our Zion family. All these steps may seem draconian, but we feel that they are necessary, at least for now.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Thank you!

Your church council, Task Force for Return to In-person Worship, and the Worship & Music Committee

ZION ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION FOR 2020

Zion's Endowment Fund has approximately \$15,300 available for distribution in 2020. 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@zionuth.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>
Deadline for receipt of the form is November 1, 2020. All applications will be considered at the November 2020 Endowment Committee meeting. Recipients will be notified in writing and checks will be sent in late November/early December 2020.

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. Some past recipients include; Community Food Bank, Your Neighbors, Family Nurturing Center, Canstruction, Lutheran Homes Foundation, Vanderkamp, KEYS Program and Foothills Rural Community Ministry.

HISTORY OF GIFTS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTIONS

In the thirty-five 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 \$15,300 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.