

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Pentecost 13 Leadership Letter

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, 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, same log-in info as last week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNbl0lQzd6WGxDdz09> 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 Facebook, *Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY*, or on our YouTube channel, you can do so by visiting our page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtfCe2z7-bIPvxp62IA>. Thanks, Shawn, for developing this option!

-The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at Zion on Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Their last blood drive at Zion was a great success and they especially appreciate that the space was large enough for their physical distancing protocols. Hours will be announced. Contact us if you're available to help serve as a greeter.

-Your Neighbors will hold their Chicken BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The BBQ will be a drive through, and the funds will support Your Neighbors as they chart a new course for serving the community.

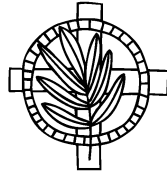
-Thank you to all who responded with comments on the proposed protocol for returning to in-person worship. On Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Task Force met and reviewed and considered the concerns, suggestions, and ideas of members of our congregation. However, it is imperative that more families send in their responses, as we need to hear from a minimum of twenty-five people in order to make returning to in-person worship a possibility. Please submit your feedback whether electronically, via your stamped return envelope, or by leaving a message on the church office telephone (315-732-4110). Feel free to request another copy of the protocol from Sara Silva ([ssilva@zionluth.com](mailto:ssilva@zionluth.com)). Our grateful thanks also is extended to those on the Task Force who are working diligently to discern the right way and time for us to once again attend church services together.

-We are looking for volunteers to help with the service when we do return: greeters, ushers. There are also a number of 'small jobs' that we'll need help with to set-up for our return: Anyone available to construct a transparent barrier for the pulpit? Or assemble a hand-sanitizing station? There are many opportunities to help! You can contact a task-force member (Mark or Sara) to volunteer.

What a joy to worship again with Pastor Eldon this week, all the way from Chicago to our Zoom service at Zion! I am reminded of the verse in Romans 12: "Though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ." May the peace and blessings of our loving God be with each of us this week.

Peace,

Kristen Burson and Mark Thompson, Church Council co-presidents



SERVICE OF THE WORD  
GATHERING

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **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:** *Let Streams of Living Justice* #710, Verses 1 & 2 -Mary Senn

**Vs. 1** Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.

**Vs. 2** For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run. O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with our radiance, light our colors with your sun.

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 15:15-21

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:9-21

**Gospel:** Matthew 16:21-28

**Sermon:** *God Is Calling* -Deacon Patsy Glista

Last Sunday we closed our service with the hymn, 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky,' otherwise known as 'Here I Am, Lord.' The hymn, with ties to God's call to Moses out of the burning bush, speaks of God's recognition of the brokenness of the world, and the pain of humankind as people turned to worldly things and away from God. God chooses not to abandon his people but to step into the messiness they have created. God's question is 'Whom Shall I Send?' Basically, God's asking, "Who is going to help me?"

Throughout history, God's calls to prophets and to us are seldom met with eager willingness to do God's bidding. Even Moses, who initially responded, "Here I Am, Lord," soon protested. There are just 18 verses in Exodus between Moses saying, 'Here I Am' to his protesting to God, 'They won't trust me. They won't listen.' God's calls also come at unexpected and inopportune times because they come in God's time, not ours. Moses was out tending sheep, minding his own business.

My own call to ministry nearly 25 years ago did not come at a time when I was interested in making a major change. I had enough to handle as a recently divorced, single mother of two college students, working two jobs and mostly feeling like I was doing just fine. Mostly - because God kept calling, nudging, whispering - I have plans for you, listen to me, come where I am leading. I want you as one of my leaders. My responses went something like this - 'Are you crazy God? I have all I can handle right here - there is no more time or money for anything else especially seminary. I can barely manage the kids' college expenses even with their help.' I learned my protesting, loudly, angrily and vehemently at times, would not make God go away. I tried ignoring, but God never went away - he was persistent and resourceful, not always patient. Much like Jesus chastises Peter in today's gospel, God would chastise me when I made the wrong choice or went down the wrong road - the one that wasn't taking me closer to where God was calling me to. Much like God wouldn't take no for Jeremiah's answer, he didn't accept 'no' from me.

Our Old Testament lesson finds us in the time after Israel had been divided into two kingdoms - Israel and Judah. Israel has already fallen to the Assyrians and Judah is on the brink of devastation. A major prophet during this period of the decline and fall of Judah, Jeremiah's call spans more than 40 years in the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. His initial response to God was similar to that of Moses, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." Pretty quickly, Jeremiah learned God doesn't take no for an answer as God responded - "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you." [Jeremiah 1]

One of the meanings for the Hebrew name, Jeremiah, is 'whom the Lord hurls or casts forth.' I wonder if Jeremiah didn't feel like God's call to be the voice of the Lord to Judah was a bit like being hurled into the unknown. God calls Jeremiah to prophesy during the years of Judah's destruction - an invasion by enemies, the tearing down of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Israelites to Babylon. He is called to convince the people of Judah to change their ways, people who have been ignoring God's commandments and enjoying life caught up in all things worldly. The Lord's words for Jeremiah in chapter 1 at the time of his call, "See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." Jeremiah is to take up 'his cross' and be God's voice of doom and gloom, but also of promise in the midst of a crumbling world. C. L. Crouch, Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary, in her commentary this week, tells us the people have failed to worship the Lord alone, instead putting their trust in earthly power and material things, so God has allowed the Babylonians to destroy the kingdom of Judah. They also had betrayed God with acts of violence and injustice. This is the place Jeremiah is called to step into.

Prior to today's reading, Jeremiah had already made attempts to remind the people what God expected - in Jeremiah 9:24, we read that God acts with 'steadfast love, justice, and righteousness.' God is committed to justice for all people and expects that his people will act with justice, as well. Jeremiah was sent to be God's voice of justice; to speak God's words of justice, love, and care for our neighbor, and opposition to oppression. He was to point out the corruption and inequality in the communities. God's words are meant to get the people to remember all the ways He has blessed them and to live out the commandments - to end poverty, homelessness, hunger, and the abuses of the world that disproportionately impact the most vulnerable; injustices and abuses not unlike those found in the world today. Jeremiah's message was not well received. The people of Judah were at a crossroads. They chose not to listen; instead they lashed out at Jeremiah. Jerusalem would fall as a result.

In today's lesson, Jeremiah expresses his frustrations, both with the people and with God. He's feeling alone in the world and his frustrations even lead him to ask God to bring destruction on the people. It's a good reminder for us that we have a God who listens even when we lash out. Listen to verse 15 as interpreted by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*, 'You know

where I am, God! Remember what I'm doing here! Take my side against my detractors. Don't stand back while they ruin me. Just look at the abuse I'm taking!' God's answer is one of repentance and forgiveness, 'Take back those words, and I'll take you back.' But God also expects action and tells Jeremiah his call isn't to be easy, 'Let your words change them. Don't change your words to suit them...They'll attack you but won't put a dent in you because I'm at your side.'

Peter, too, is called by God. It was just last week that we heard Peter's solid statement to Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus' response, 'Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...' Peter is called to be the foundation for the church.

But this week in our gospel lesson as Jesus sits down with his disciples to help them better understand God's call to him as the Messiah and to them, Peter is in a different place. Hear it from The Message translation. 'Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!" Wait a minute, Peter says, that's not what we signed on for. Jesus response - "But Jesus didn't swerve. 'Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works.'" Peterson titles this portion of Matthew's gospel, 'You're Not in the Driver's Seat.' How true even for each of us. We don't have the road map, Jesus does. Jesus gives his disciples and us guidance, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead...Don't run from suffering, embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how." At first brush that phrase, 'don't run from suffering, embrace it' can catch us up short. Who wants to suffer? But I think Jesus wasn't necessarily saying we have to embrace our own suffering, although surely we all have and will have suffering in life. I believe that, much like God's message through Jeremiah was for the Israelites to not set their minds on human things but rather to see the world as God saw it - with open eyes really seeing the suffering and pain of their day and to do something to change it, Jesus is saying to us, 'don't run from suffering, run toward it.' Really look at the community you live in, where is God's justice lacking? See the poverty, the hungry, those who are marginalized. Go to those places, reach out to those people and bring God's justice to that place. Jesus is asking that we embrace change, be willing to do what we can to change the systems that cause injustice in our communities. Jesus asks us to choose to 'take up our cross,' to speak up and act as Jeremiah did, be willing to love our neighbors as ourselves, but more importantly as God loves us all. Jesus calls us to follow his example of healing the sick, and reaching out to the broken and to the less fortunate.

In our Romans' text for today, Paul provides a detailed description of what it means to be called as a servant of God. [first verses] "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but, associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are...so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." God's call is a call to action, filled with crossroads and decisions, struggles and challenges. It is a call to show and be God's justice in the world. It begins with God calling and our acceptance of being sent. There will be rejection, but most importantly the reassurance of God's constant promise that he is always with us.

I leave you with this poem by Annie Jenson Flint.

*God hath not promised skies always blue  
Flower strewn pathways,  
All our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
Sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
Peace without pain.  
But God hath promised  
Strength for the day  
Rest for the labor  
Light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.*

*Listen, God is calling? Will we answer affirmatively - yes, with your help, 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. Amen.

*ANTHEM: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me -arr. Mary Senn*

## Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. 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, Fran and Claudia, Rusty and Bill Pentland, for the peace and comfort of Patty and her family, the family of Debbie Presite, Edie Marie, Suzee, Michael Gilleece and family, the Nelson family, Your Neighbors clients, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you, through 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: Will You Come and Follow Me #798, Verses 1 & 5 -Mary Senn*

**Vs. 1** "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

**Vs. 5** Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## Blessing

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. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

*Thank you for being with us!*

## September Birthdays – Happy Birthday from your Zion family!!

Caryn Carlson	1	Christopher Lambe	12	Nicole Snyder	21
Mellony Light	4	Jack Henke	16	Janet Burton	23
Doris Berry	6	Aaron Tompkins	16	Shelby Miller	25
Donna Moulton	8	Timothy R. Mahay	16	Ed Grove	26
Carolyn Renno	8	David Bonvicino	17	Ella Bonvicino	27
David Midura	9	Roger Beiswenger	18	Carol Blackburn	28
Brandon Miller	10	Sarah Bennett	18	Patrick Smith	28

*Luke Marscher had a birthday on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday, Luke!!*

### *Given to the Glory of God*

<b>In Memory of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Brother Frank Schmoller	Children's Ministry	Ron & Jan Kowalczyk
George Thompson	Roof Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
<b>In Honor of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
The church council	World Hunger	Bob & Bonnie Loomis

<b>July 2020 Treasurer's Report</b>				
	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/Under Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	\$ 10,203.95	\$ 88,237.37	\$ 110,192.35	\$ (21,954.98)
Other Income	\$ 1,090.69	\$ 17,461.24	\$ 20,187.05	\$ (2,725.81)
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 11,294.64	\$ 105,698.61	\$ 130,379.40	\$ (24,680.79)
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$ 14,157.14	\$ 97,135.81	\$ 153,038.72	\$ (55,902.91)
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ (2,862.50)	\$ 8,562.80	\$ (22,659.32)	\$ 31,222.12



### *Notes of gratitude*

Thank you to John & Diana Inserra, and their friend, for donating 80 reusable cotton masks from Hanes to Zion. We appreciate this gift so much, thank you!

Thank you to Patsy Glista for handmaking a dozen face masks for Zion. We appreciate your time and talent in putting these together for the church. Thank you!

Thank you to Ben & Cheryl Edmiston for purchasing disposable masks for Zion. We know these will come in handy, and we are so thankful that you offered to do this. Thank you!

We received so many touching tributes to George Thompson. Thank you.

## Enjoy our 18<sup>th</sup> recipe exchange provided to us by chef Jon Daly

### *Antigua Sautéed Shrimp with Salsa & Mango Slaw*

Preparation Time: 20 Minutes - Cooking Time: 10 minutes - Serves: 4

#### **Slaw Ingredients:**

Cut the following into julienne- ¼ head of white cabbage, ½ red bell pepper, ½ yellow bell pepper, ½ green bell pepper, ½ red onion, ½ carrot, and ½ mango.

2 tbsp. rice wine vinegar, 2 tbsp. olive oil, 1 tbsp. cilantro, chopped, 2 tbsp. honey, Salt-pepper to taste.

#### **Salsa Ingredients:**

Dice the following- ½ mango, ½ red bell pepper, ½ yellow bell pepper, ½ green bell pepper, and ½ red onion.

1 jalapeño pepper- brunoised, 2 tsp. cilantro, chopped, 2 tsp. olive oil, chopped, Salt-pepper to taste.

#### **Shrimp Ingredients:**

12 Jumbo shrimp- peeled with tails on, 2 tbsp. olive oil, 1 tsp. chopped garlic.

**Method for Slaw:** Combine all ingredients for the slaw and refrigerate.

**Method for Salsa:** Combine all ingredients for the salsa and refrigerate.

**Method for Shrimp:** Sauté the shrimp in olive oil and Garlic. Season with salt and pepper.

**To Serve:** Drain slaw and divide into 4 servings on four plates. Arrange 3 shrimp on each plate around the slaw. Drizzle with salsa.



Ethan and Hallie were married in St Anthony and St Agnes Catholic Church in Utica on August 8th with 8 family members in the church. We held a small backyard party for them. They hope to have another ceremony next summer with a reception. I am very proud of their decision to prioritize the marriage over the reception! -Lisa Lucas Myers



## Hunger in the Time of COVID-19: Life for Today and Hope for Tomorrow

Rick Steves, guidebook author and travel TV host, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA, invite you to a virtual benefit – the first of its kind – for ELCA World Hunger. This Zoom virtual event will take place *Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. Central Time*. **Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19.**

We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join us to face this global hunger crisis head-on, and continue to move toward a just world where all are fed. Please spread the word about this extraordinary event among your congregations and communities. Register by September 22<sup>nd</sup> at <https://community.elca.org/online-registration/sept-24-rick-steves-virtual-hunger-event?erid=368e666e-af6b-4b3d-b644-23ddb8a082d6&trid=368e666e-af6b-4b3d-b644-23ddb8a082d6>

# BBQ Chicken

 **DRIVE THRU** 



A fundraiser to benefit Your Neighbors, Inc.  
an affiliate of the Lutheran Home of CNY

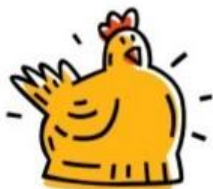


**Saturday, September 19, 2020**

Zion Lutheran Church

corner of French & Burrstone Roads, New Hartford

Beginning at Noon until sold out



Tasty BBQ chicken with sides

just **\$10**

Call **235.7149** for more info

Funded in part by:

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