

## Leadership Letter for the Week of Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>

To our Zion Family,

We are grateful to Pastor Anita Mohr and the Our Saviour congregation for inviting us to join their in-person worship service this past Sunday, and again for this upcoming Sunday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. We have all certainly experienced the challenge of being without a pastor for these past 18 months. Our supply pastors—the Rev. Janet Hoover, Rev. Jen DeWeerth, Deacon Patsy Glista, and Rev. Eldon DeWeerth—have presided over meaningful worship services during this long stretch and offered some of the most inspiring and thoughtful sermons that many of us have heard in a long while. (This certainly is the case for me!). Pastor Anita Mohr, our transition pastor during this time, has provided pastoral care and counsel when members of our congregation have passed away, been hospitalized, or are in need of spiritual guidance. Kelli Watson and Marcus Corasanti have graced us with beautiful music. We are grateful to Janet, Jen, Patsy, Eldon, Anita, Kelli, and Marcus for their generosity in continuing to lead our congregation during this time of transition.

### **Announcements and updates:**

#### **Sunday Worship Services**

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>—in-person at Our Saviour, 10:00 AM service. Zoom links will be provided the week prior for those who would like to attend remotely.

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and the full month of October—at Zion, both in-person and via Zoom.

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday—Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.** Zion will be helping to support the Morrow Warming Center in Utica for this God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Morrow works to assist the homeless: feeding them, offering help with places to sleep, and providing work opportunities. Immediate needs: Milk, coffee, sugar, cereal, snacks, mayo, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, paper lunch bags, syrup, plastic ware, napkins and paper towels. Pillow cases and clean bedding are also welcomed. Drop off your donations in the downstairs coat room at Zion between now and Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, Mon-Thurs, between 9:30-1:30, or at the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> church service at Zion.

**Red Cross Blood Drive at Zion~Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.** Zion will again host a Red Cross Blood Drive between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. As there is currently a real need for blood donations, we encourage everyone to seriously consider donating at this drive. Your donation can help someone greatly in need. We encourage those interested to schedule a donation appointment: The sponsor code to schedule an appointment is ZionLutheran and the direct link to schedule an appointment is <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ZionLutheran>. Please wear a face covering when you come for your donation appointment. Thank you!

**Installation of our new bishop for the Upstate New York ELCA Synod:** The Synod Office extended the following invitation to all members of the ELCA congregations in our Synod:

#### **Invitation to Members of the Upstate New York Synod**

**Service of Holy Communion  
with the Installation of The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II  
as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod**

**Bethany Baptist Church  
149 Beattie St, Syracuse, NY 13224  
Saturday September 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

*Doors Open: 1:00 p.m., Pre-Service Music Begins: 1:30 p.m. Reception follows at the church.*

**Volunteers needed for five Zion committees:** We are looking for volunteers to help with the work of four committees. Please consider sharing your time and talents to carry out the work on these issues important to the life of our church. The committees and contact persons:

1. A newly-formed Technology Committee - Mark Thompson, [mdthompsonphd@gmail.com](mailto:mdthompsonphd@gmail.com)
2. The Christian Education Committee - Matt LaFave, [mattswoodcrafts@gmail.com](mailto:mattswoodcrafts@gmail.com)
3. The Transportation Committee - Dan Rodahan, [rodahan2@yahoo.com](mailto:rodahan2@yahoo.com)
4. The Disabilities Ministry - Dan Rodahan, [rodahan2@yahoo.com](mailto:rodahan2@yahoo.com)
5. The Call Committee met briefly on Zoom on August 24th. Due to a recent resignation, there are six members on the committee. This would make voting difficult. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Jack Henke at 315-861-7665 or [jhenke@midyork.org](mailto:jhenke@midyork.org)

**Volunteers needed for Your Neighbors kitchen clean-up:** The Your Neighbors board has decided to resume their program, focusing on the provision of meals. The program will again be utilizing the kitchen at Zion and plans to start-up again in September. The kitchen needs some clean-up before the operation can get underway. If you are willing to help with the kitchen clean-up, please contact Sara Silva or Patsy Glista.

**Zion's Call Process:** The call process to find Zion's next pastor continues. The committee, led by chairperson Jack Henke, has thoughtfully reviewed materials forwarded to them by the Synod Office. To date, we have not found a good match to help Zion fulfill our mission from the candidates presented by the synod. An update on the process will be provided to the congregation within the next three weeks.

**YMCA concluding use of Zion facilities:** We recently received word from the YMCA administration that they will be finishing up their use of our Zion facilities and moving their operation to the Tree House in Whitesboro, which is better suited to meet their program needs. The Y has used the lower level of the parsonage for office space and the fellowship hall for summer programs as well as during remote learning during the pandemic. We will miss the Y staff and students!

I will admit that, at least sometimes, patience isn't my strong suit. If there is a task to do, I like to get it done. If there something unresolved, I like to bring it to conclusion. While this may work in some situations, but there are lots of times when pushing forward to resolution on "my" timetable is absolutely the wrong way to approach things. If any of this sounds familiar for you, perhaps you would benefit from the following prayer that I've been keeping handy lately: *Lord, teach me to be patient with life, with people, and with myself. I sometimes try to hurry too much, and I push for answers before the time is right. Teach me to trust Your sense of timing rather than my own and to surrender my will to Your greater and wiser plan. Amen.* (Happy Heart Daily Inspiration)

Have a healthy, happy, and patient week ahead!  
Mark Thompson, church council co-president

**Prayers Of The Congregation:** 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, Rosemary, Chuck Carlson, comfort for Fran King at this time, Claudia, Shirley, Steve, Ben, healing for Joyce, Sara, Carole, Pr. Roger, comfort for the family of Bill Swartz who passed away, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Ed and family, comfort for the family of Michael Gilleece, Theresa, and all of the teachers, parents, and students entering the new school year, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

# Are you hesitant to get vaccinated?

With the academic year about to start & the COVID-19 Delta variant on the rise, I'd like to offer a free & confidential place to call to get your questions answered. **If you are not fully vaccinated, please call me at 315-534-4717 (cell).** Leave a voice message, and I will call you right back. I'd like to talk with you if you are hesitant about the vaccine and need more facts. I've been studying the research and getting many professional listservs with breaking information. I can provide unbiased information, and I have been vaccine hesitant in the past. I understand the confusion & fear.

I want to help keep our Zion community as healthy as possible. We are not out of this pandemic yet, so please call me if I can help as you struggle with this decision.

Ellen M. Smith, PhD, MPH, RN  
(she/her/hers)  
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White Hall #242  
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c: 315-534-4717

## back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school."  
*Amen.*

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As we begin yet another school year that is still different than what we have been used to in the past, we pray for all students, teachers, and parents. Please keep everyone safe, happy, and secure throughout the upcoming school year. Please help everyone work together to ensure that all children receive a quality education and that everyone stays healthy. With your help, God, we will all get through this. Amen.

**Help is needed** to deliver donations to **The Warming Center** at 500 Plant St. in Utica.  
Just a reminder that you will likely **need a truck!** Deliver date TBA.  
Please call/email Sara if you can help. Thank you!

*Take a peek at some of the donations already collected at Zion!*

