

# Through Zion's Window

SEPTEMBER 2017

## RETIREMENT SPIRIT STEPS / SEPTEMBER 2017



It was a beautiful day. It was a day with a cloudless, bright blue sky, warm temperatures, and a gentle breeze. I looked out over the countryside and in my mind's eye I could see myself galloping through the field of freshly cut alfalfa. That vision dated back some fifty years to when I was in my mid-twenties and owned a couple of quarter horses. Shadow was the horse that I was riding in my mind. It was a vision that brought a smile to my face and triggered a flood of memories. I remembered walking the fence lines hunting pheasants and rabbits, sneaking up on the potholes hoping to surprise a flock of ducks or just looking for wild mushrooms. But as I looked out there were no more open fields where the alfalfa once grew, it was divided into lots each with septic mound rising out of the ground and many with small vacation homes or mobile homes parked on them. What I saw in my memory was no longer there and I felt a tear course down my cheek as I realized that there was no going back.

I wondered if the fact that I would soon be retiring played into my nostalgia that day --- maybe but the "why" of that occurrence has not interested me as much as the nostalgia itself. It seems that there are many transitions in our lives that trigger those nostalgic moments. I suspect that we all have many times in our lives when we are experiencing change and want to return to what we remember as a safe and happy time in our life --- but we can't go back we can only move ahead into an uncertain future.

I remember describing looking back on my life's journey as God opening doors for me, but then, my leaving claw marks from my fingernails on the door jams as I resisted being pulled through the door, and yet each new leg of the journey was more exciting and fulfilling than the previous one. You would think that I would learn.

What strikes me is that it seems as if the Church is like that also. Many in the congregations of the Lutheran Churches have a collective memory of the days gone by when the sanctuary was filled on Sunday mornings, the robed choir filled the choir loft and Sunday Schools were bursting at the seams. There is a collective nostalgia for those "good old days". We can't go back we can only move ahead into an uncertain future. Can we trust that our God is leading the way and opening doors for the Church?

From the vantage point of my retirement looming on the horizon I see the possibility of a challenging and exciting future for the people of Zion Lutheran Church in Ashippun. God is opening doors to a future that is more exciting and fulfilling than any of the past. We live in a world where evil and hatred, bigotry and racism have taken shape and form. As the people of God, we have the opportunity to once again combat those forces of evil that would seek to divide and destroy this world that God loves. We are called to once again demonstrate and proclaim that Love which we confess. We are challenged to develop new ways of being the Church while at the same time maintaining those forms of worship that have brought fulfillment to so many for so long.

The challenges are great yet we need to always remember that it is our God who is opening the door.

May you have peace in your day.  
Pastor Bob



On August 6th, Zion hosted a rest stop at The Best Dam Bike Tour for MS (150 mile bike ride that raises money for MS research and treatment).

A BIG shout out and thank you to all our Zion rest stop volunteers and bakers. We couldn't have put on one of the best rest stops ever without you

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 04 - Labor Day
- Sept. 10 - National Grandparents Day
- Sept. 11 - Patriot Day (Remembrance of Sept. 11)
- Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Sept. 22 - First Day of Autumn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 03 - Art Hall
- 05 - Kathy Hetzel
- 06 - Edgar Braunschweig
- 06 - Gina Altreuter
- 07 - Barth Liesener
- 07 - Bill Jaeger
- 10 - Justin Liesener
- 11 - Laura Schoenike
- 13 - Lester Schwartz
- 18 - Neal Wendorf
- 18 - Linda Braunschweig
- 21 - Carmen Schultz
- 24 - Gavin Liesener
- 25 - Danielle Balmer

ACOYLTES

- 03 - Kyle Schlieve
- 10 - Kristofer Schultz
- 17 - Nolan Altreuter
- 24 - Kyle Schlieve

USHERS

- \*Bill Mack Team**
- Paul & Wendy Egholm
- Sally Schoenike

GREETERS

- 03 - Norma Tunak
- 10 - Allen & MaryLee Petersen
- 17 - Terry & Lynn Clemons
- 24 - Jerry & Peggy Liesener

ALTAR GUILD

- Carrie Wendorf
- Katherine Wendorf

LAY READER

- Ele Mack

ASS'T MIN

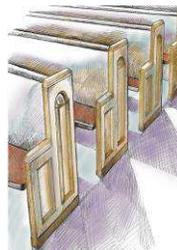
- 03 - Anna Gramling
- 10 - Carrie Wendorf
- 17 - John Siedschlag
- 24 - Jerry Liesener

PROJECTION OPERATOR

- 03 - Loni Jaeger
- 10 - Cindy Wagner
- 17 - Carrie Wendorf
- 24 - Jeanine Heinrich

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 20 - William & Erla Newbecker
- 21 - Gary & Debbie Guenther
- 24 - Pastor Bob & Beth Thays



View from the Pews

- Sunday, July 30 45
- Sunday, August 6 God's Work Day
- Sunday, August 13 60
- Sunday, August 20 38

Oktoberfest October 1, 2017

Zion Lutheran Church  
N557 Main Street, Ashippun  
Polka Service at 8:45 AM



"Gemutlichkeit Under the Tent" until 11:00 a.m.

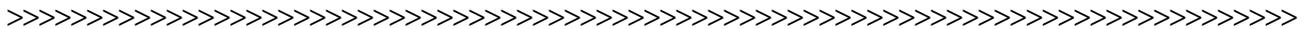
11:00-Pork Loin/Chicken Dinner \$10 Adults, \$5 Children over 5

Call 920-474-7162 or 920-261-9678

Polka dance from 1 until 5 p.m. Maple Inn, Hwy 67 in Old Ashippun

Music by Good Time Dutchmen Band ~ Dance admission is \$5 at the door.

Door prizes and raffles galore!



Many of you as to have asked to have family members and friends added to our weekly prayer list, which we will gladly do. But if you could please put a note or send an email to the church secretary when you would like someone taken off the prayer list, that would be appreciated. Also, if we have any members who would like to be added or taken off please let us know also.

The following is an email that I receive from Dr. David Lose along with a petition to which I have added my signature. I agree that more should be said and done but this is a start. I have included the link to the petition if any should be moved to add their signature.

Pastor Bob

Dear friends,

Like you, I have been shocked and saddened, grief-stricken and outraged, by the violence in Charlottesville and, increasingly, around our country and globe, the "normalization" of extreme and bigoted rhetoric, and the rise of neo-Nazism and white supremacy. Again like many of you, I have wondered how, beyond prayer and lament, to respond.

Toward answering that question, I've put below a statement I've written with [Prof. Rolf Jacobson](#), my former colleague at Luther Seminary and good friend. It is addressed to Lutheran clergy not to exclude others but to acknowledge that Lutherans have a particular obligation to history because of our legacy from WWII and, indeed, because of Luther's own conflicting and painful testimony as one who apprehended God's expansive grace and love but failed grievously at times to apply it to all persons, especially his Jewish neighbors.

Truthfully, I sometimes worry that in our media-saturated world, public statements either get lost in the cacophony of cyberspace or, while well intentioned, too often become a substitute for concrete action. Yet in the aftermath of last weekend's horrific events, I was reminded of Martin Niemoller's stark assessment of the failure of the church to speak out against Nazism in its early days, and so felt called to say something.

Please feel free to sign the statement, post links to it on your social media, and share it with your congregations and friends. It is not perfect. More can and should be said. More can and should be *done*. But for these two Lutheran clergy, it is a start.

As always, whatever your tradition and whether lay or clergy, I am grateful for your faithfulness and covet your prayers for all our leaders and people and, indeed, for our nation and world.

Yours in Christ, David

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/lutheran-clergy-against-white-supremacy>

## **Statement of Lutheran Clergy Rejecting White Supremacy, Terrorism, and Violence**

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” –Revelation 7:9-10.*

We the undersigned, as Lutheran pastors and leaders who believe that God’s grace is for “all tribes and peoples and languages,” publicly condemn white supremacy as well as terrorism of every kind.

Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemöller was imprisoned by the Nazis in 1938 because of his opposition to their platform and only released when the concentration camps were liberated by the Allies in 1945. Initially a supporter of Hitler and in the years preceding the war often indifferent towards, and at times intolerant of, his Jewish neighbors, Niemöller was by no means a perfect witness. Yet he nevertheless eloquently expressed the guilt and grief he felt at his lack of empathy and action and offered a warning to future generations in his widely quoted poem:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me— and there was no one left to speak for me.<sup>1</sup>*

As Lutheran clergy, we recognize our tradition’s difficult history regarding racism and bigotry. Some, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, were quick to respond to and oppose the rise of Nazism in mid-twentieth-century Germany. Others, such as Niemöller, responded over time. Still others sacrificed their faith to nationalistic fervor that betrayed the inclusive nature of the Gospel and became complicit with oppression and violence. Similarly, we are poignantly aware of Martin Luther’s vision of the expansive nature of God’s love for the world and his contradictory and painful failure to apply that vision to all people, resulting in hateful and destructive attacks against his Jewish neighbors. In North America, some Lutherans supported slavery of African Americans, white supremacy, and oppression of Native Americans.

For this reason, we recognize that we are not perfect witnesses against white supremacy and terrorism. Nevertheless, in light of the recent violence in Charlottesville and the ominous rise of white supremacy nationally, we feel called to state as clearly and forcibly as possible our unequivocal opposition to racism and bigotry, our condemnation of hate-based violence, and our commitment to work strenuously for greater acceptance and equality in our congregations and communities. As leaders of Christian communities whose Lord has commanded that we care always for “the least of these” (Matt 25:40), we pledge our support to those who are oppressed because of their faith, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexuality. When God declares God’s love for the world (John 3:16), it is for the *whole* world.

While we speak from our particular faith tradition, we believe our convictions stem also from our status as U.S. citizens. In a 1790 letter to “The Hebrew Congregation at Newport, RI,” George Washington expressed his hope that the new nation would offer the world an enlarged moral vision:

*It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.<sup>2</sup>*

A slave owner to his death, Washington also was not a perfect witness, yet he managed to offer eloquent testimony to his vision for a country where bigotry and persecution would find no refuge and tolerance would not be the exception but the norm.

Therefore, as both Christian leaders and as American citizens who cherish the freedoms of belief, assembly, and speech this country protects, we call upon all leaders – religious, civic, and corporate – to speak out in the clearest of terms to oppose racism, bigotry, and violence whenever and wherever it may happen. Neither our words nor our actions will be perfect, and we will fall short of ideals. Yet speak and act we must, once more dedicating ourselves to the cause of giving “bigotry no sanction [and] persecution no assistance.” For when we remain silent, the whole nation suffers and we betray our responsibilities as stewards of the unparalleled religious and political freedoms our nation affords.

1. As Niemöller made this statement in a variety of venues, there are similarly several different versions in circulation. The one quoted here reflects the translation and wording preserved at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007392> (accessed 8/19/17).

2. *George Washington: A Collection*, ed. W.B. Allen (Liberty Fund: Indianapolis, 1988): <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/letter-to-the-hebrew-congregation-at-newport> (accessed 8/19/17).

# Evangelism News...

September 2017 Newsletter

## Rally Day

The county and state fairs may be over, but now it's time to participate in Zion's Fair! EVERYONE can participate...no age barriers! Wait 'til you see what's being planned! Zion's Fair will take place after worship on Sunday, **September 10**. Don't miss the fun! Bring a snack to share for coffee hour and stay for the games...fair style!



## Retirement

*Pastor Bob is retiring!*

**September 24** will mark a special worship at **10:00** with socializing and a luncheon to follow in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to pass.

Watch your mailboxes for additional information on how you can help celebrate this milestone with your first and/or favorite memory during Pastor Bob's tenor with our congregation.

## Zion Artisan & Vendor Sale

Zion Artisan and Vendor Sale is on Saturday, November 11 from 10 until 3. There will be a bake sale, raffle drawings, and delightful gourmet lunch choices, plus new and repeat vendors. Mark your calendar...spread the word. Artisans can pick up registration forms at church or from Doreen. Space rental is only \$20 for an 8 x 10 booth. Contact Doreen Schultz for more information.

## Piggly Wiggly Receipts

The cash register receipts you dropped in the box during the months of July and August totaled **\$9,953.03!** A percentage of that total translates into a generous donation by Piggly Wiggly to the youth bank account.

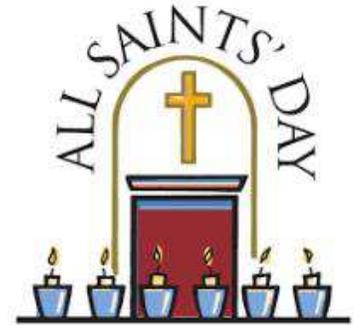
*Reminder:* Piggly Wiggly prefers the receipts not be rolled and rubber banded. Flat and/or folded is okay.

Thanks for turning in your CURRENT receipts. It's an easy fund-raiser for Zion youth! "Shop the Pig!"

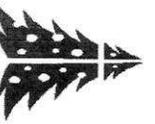
## Saints in Light

All Saints Day will be celebrated Sunday, **November 5**,

Our celebration this year will have an added feature. More details will follow as we near this occasion. Use the request form in this newsletter to honor special people in your life by lighting our tree. Red lights honor living friends and relatives; white lights honor the deceased. Requests will be accepted through **October 29**. See Annette with questions and to return request forms/donations.



Doreen Schultz  
Evangelism Committee



PLEASE COMPLETE A SECTION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL (ONE PERSON'S NAME PER SECTION)

DONATION OF \$5 PER NAME GREATLY APPRECIATED. PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR EACH HONOREE; YOUR NAME ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

### Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA

Remember or honor a loved one or special friend this holiday season with this heartfelt gift.

#### "SAINTS IN LIGHT" TREE

Your donation will light the evergreen tree in front of Zion throughout the holiday season.

Red lights honor the living. White lights honor the memory of those departed.

A BEAUTIFUL "SAINTS IN LIGHT" CARD WITH THE DONOR'S NAME WILL BE MAILED TO ALL THOSE HONORED AND REMEMBERED.

PLEASE PRINT  
MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE SAINTS IN LIGHT TREE IS ENCLOSED.

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

All names of those honored and remembered will be displayed in our church narthex. Requests will be accepted through October 29. The Tree Lighting program will be on November 5, 2017.

Please light a bulb on our *Saints in Light* Tree (one individual per light)

For: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Red Light-in honor of friend or relative (living)

White Light-in honor of friend or relative (deceased)

Send *Saints in Light* Acknowledgement card to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please light a bulb on our *Saints in Light* Tree (one individual per light)

For: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Red Light-in honor of friend or relative (living)

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