

Through Zion's Window

FEBRUARY 2020



Exodus 20:6 "...but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who **love** me and keep my commandments."

Dear friends in Christ,

It's February, Valentine's Day is just around the corner and stores across the nation are stocked up on sappy Hallmark cards expressing our *feeling* of love for important people in our lives. As I was reading some of the cards in a store last week I thought of something my wife (Starr) wrote on Facebook on our anniversary a number of years ago: "Love is patient, love is kind, love is a choice - glad we chose each other." Modern culture, reinforced by Hallmark and others, would have us think that love is nothing but an emotion. It is something we "fall into" as though it were a ditch at the side of the road that we are powerless to avoid.

But as God's people we are called to understand love as something more. There is a clear divide on this subject by professionals – secular writers – psychiatrists, psychologists, etc. that I read all say that love is nothing but a biological or genetic response to chemical reactions in the body. But Christian writers emphasize that love is a gift from God and that we have both the ability and the *need* to choose to love. In the Old Testament Hebrew one of the words used for love means "to choose for", over and against something else. We make a choice for God, and in doing so we choose **not** to put other things above God; money, power, food, etc.

In loving God we also choose to follow his commandments. For those of you who have been out of confirmation for a while you let me remind you that the commandments can be divided into two categories. The first three describe our relationship with God and the last seven describe our relationship with others.¹ Jesus, of course, narrowed the 10 down to two – "Love the Lord, your God, ... and your neighbor as yourself." What do these commandments mean for us if love isn't about a warm, fuzzy feeling but about a conscious choice for our neighbor? God didn't love the world so much that he bought us all Hallmark cards, instead he chose to act out that love in Jesus Christ.

When love is a choice and not simply an emotion, we honestly don't even have to know our neighbor well, or even like them, to choose for them. How would our world look if every one of us chose for our neighbor as we would for ourselves? If every choice, we make from buying food and choosing to what stores to support to casting our votes at election time is about what is as good for our neighbor as it is for us?

I invite you this Valentine's Day, and every day, to make a choice. Not which card to buy, but how it will impact your neighbor. Remember that old cliché "even if you choose to do nothing, you have still made a choice."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Doug

¹ If you've forgotten the commandments, I invite you to look them up in your Small Catechism, if you don't have one and would like one, let me know – I've got a few in the office.



January 12, 2020 Council Minutes – Meeting was brought to order by President Jerry Liesener at 9:47 am. Devotions were led by Gina Altreuter. A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Franklin Wolter, to approve the secretary's report for December as printed. All in favor, motion carried.

Carrie Wendorf emailed the treasurer's report to Council members. Motion by Wendy, seconded by Doreen Schultz to accept the treasurer's report and file for audit. All in favor, motion carried.

Parish Ed – Christmas Program with Cross youth was well attended, a full house!

Worship – heard all good things about the Christmas services. There were 44 people in attendance for the 10:30 candlelight service.

Evangelism – The pew challenge is currently going on and is optional. Cardmaking workshop will be on January 26th. Souper Bowl Sunday will be on February 2nd. We will be collecting monetary and food donations. Chili Lunch will be on February 23rd.

Missions – Bread and Roses meal was served on January 2nd.

Stewardship – follow up mailings were sent to those that have not returned their statement of intent.

Building and Grounds – getting bids for window replacements and parking lot repairs. Will have something to present at the annual meeting.

Old Business – Annual meeting will be February 9th. Nominations for council positions were discussed. Positions currently open are Parish Ed, Evangelism and Stewardship. Carrie is working on the 2020 budget.

New Business – Pastor Tom Pietz from St. Olaf Church presented the partnership with Children's Cup. More information will be coming on this partnership. Details on the organization can be found on childrenscup.org.

Next Council meeting will be after the annual meeting on February 9th. Motion was made by Gina, seconded by Jeanine Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak

Plan to Be at Our Annual Meeting February 9th

It's the business meeting of the congregation, of which we are all a part of. This is where decisions are made, and ideas are heard, as you think about the direction Zion should take for 2020.

Congregational Meeting



Zion's mission statement

- Reach out to our community
- Educate those who gather
- Affirm our beliefs in Jesus Christ
- Communicate with God
- Help those in need

*A digital copy of the annual report will be emailed to you next week. If you do not receive the weekly happenings, but would like the annual report emailed to you, please call or email the church office.

Council positions open for 2020 are Stewardship, Parish Education and Evangelism. The newly elected position will work with the current council member for the year.

Anyone interested should contact a member of the Church Council or Pastor Doug.



Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA

Chili Lunch and Pie Auction

Sunday, February 23

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Zion Lutheran Church will host our Annual Chili Lunch & Pie Auction

ZION'S FELLOWSHIP HALL ~ N557 MAIN STREET, ASHIPUN

Join us for Fun & Fellowship ~ Everyone is Welcome!

Un-decorating Church

Thank you to all who helped take down our Christmas decoration and put them away.



Let's see who **You** think will be the **SUPER BOWL CHAMPS**

Once the teams are determined, containers will be marked for each team and located in the Narthex.

Vote by placing food items or cash/coin in the respective containers marked for each team.

All donations benefit the Ashippun **FOOD PANTRY**.



Workshop



A card and small gift is given to the residents at the Ashippun Senior Apartments bi-monthly. A workshop will be held after service in the lower level on **January 26** to decorate cards and other crafty gift ideas. If you have any "easy" card or gift ideas, please talk to Doreen.

Chili Lunch and Pie Auction



Have you been dreaming of those delicious pies you enjoyed last year?

The wait is almost over!

Chili Lunch and Pie Auction is February 23.

Bakers - get your recipes ready to delight our taste buds once again.

Piggly Wiggly Receipts

Thank you for saving your current grocery receipts and placing them in the box located in the Narthex. Following is a recap of the receipts turned in for 2019.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jan/Feb | 6,982.33 |
| Mar/Apr | 2,483.50 |
| May/June | 5,473.29 |
| July/Aug | 7,293.43 |
| Sept/Oct | 8,200.08 |
| Nov/Dec | <u>5,875.13</u> |
| Totaling | \$36,307.76 |

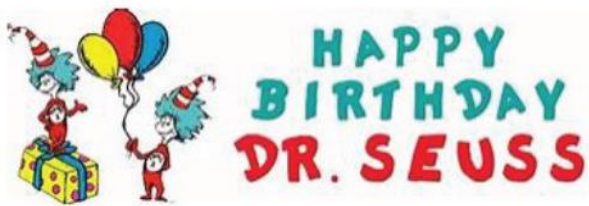
Piggly Wiggly donates 1% of your total receipts to the youth account. What a wonderful and easy fund raiser!

The Great Pew Challenge

Here is your opportunity to sit in one, a few or all 30 pews. It's up to you! Use the sheet in your mailbox to keep track of the date you sat in each particular pew.



If you have a competitive spirit, sit in all 30, record the date next to the pew number on the sheet and place it in the Evangelism mailbox. *(There could be a prize!)*



We're celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday at coffee hour on March 1. Bring a new or used book to donate to the **Little Free Library**.

Things Happening Around Zion...

* January 24 ~ 10 am - 12 pm - Pastor Doug has office hours at Whelan's Coffee Shop in Oconomowoc.

* January 26 ~ Souper Bowl Sunday – Bring spare change/cash or non-perishable food items for the food pantry. See your newsletter for more information.

* January 26 ~ Card Workshop (easy crafts/gifts) after Worship – this workshop will be held after worship in the basement to decorate cards (or name easy crafts/gifts) to be giving as gifts.

* February 6 ~ 6 pm – 7:30 pm - Adult Education at Cross

* February 9 ~ Annual Meeting after Worship

- Council positions open for 2020 are Stewardship, Parish Education and Evangelism. The newly elected position will work with the current council member for the year.

- Anyone interested should contact a member of the Church Council or Pastor Doug.

* February 12 ~ 9:30 am – 11:00 am - Adult Education at Zion

* February 16 ~ DEADLINE: March Newsletter

* February 20 ~ 6 pm – 7:30 pm - Adult Education at Cross

* MARK YOU CALENDARS! February 23 ~ 10 am – 1 pm - Zion's Annual Chili Lunch & Pie Auction

* February 26 ~ 9:30 am – 11:00 am - Adult Education at Zion

* February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday

- 5:30 pm – Worship at Cross
- 7:00 pm – Joint Worship with Zion/Holy Name

Notes:

* If you notice garbage bags, cups, tissues, etc. are getting low, can you please leave a note in the Office mailbox in the narthex or on the whiteboard on the refrigerator in the basement.

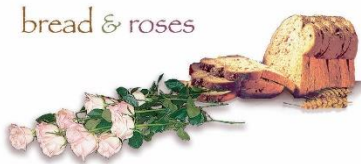
* January 26 ~ 4 pm – 6 pm – Beer & Hymn ~ St. Olaf's has invited you to join them in an evening of Fellowship at the Rustic Inn in Mapleton. Bring friends, the Rustic Inn will give some of the proceeds to St. Olaf's building mission in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Africa.

* January 26 ~ 10:30 am – 1:30 pm ~ St. John's – Ashippun, Chili Lunch & Pie Auction. Come on out and help support St. John's Youth Group. They will be serving chili, hot ham sandwiches, hot dogs, grilled cheese, cake & ice cream. There will also be an auction of homemade pies and cheesecakes!



Thank you for the unexpected Christmas gift! It really means a lot to feel appreciated!

Pastor Bruce



Dear Zion Members,
 On Thurs. January 2, Zion serves at Bread and Roses. THANK YOU to all who donated and helped the day of! We couldn't have done it without you!

Just an FYI, I will be in Arizona on vacation January 31 – February 8. I am not taking my laptop with, so I will not be responding to emails during that time. If you need anything, please contact me before I leave or see Pastor Doug.

Thanks,
 Danielle Balmer