

Through Zion's Window

JANUARY 2020

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”-1Timothy 4:7.

Many people choose to make personal resolutions for the new year. Resolutions to improve their physical and mental health or to spend more time with family and friends. But how often do we resolve to take better care of our relationship with God? In my own (albeit limited) pastoral and (slightly less limited) personal experience, I can say I have never known a person who have grown in their Christian walk without being intentional about their spiritual disciplines, much like improving physical health requires commitment to a disciplined regimen of physical activity. Spiritual disciplines are those personal, family and community habits that promote spiritual growth. Spiritual growth produces godliness, which brings us closer to God and to God's people. If your picture of a disciplined Christian is one of a grim, tight-lipped, joyless half-robot, then you have missed the point. Jesus was the most disciplined person to walk this earth, yet he was also the most joyful and passionate as well. Jesus is our example of godly living! What might a “spiritual” regimen look like?

To answer that question let us look at seven hallmarks of spirituality we can take from Jesus' journey:

1. Prayer—Jesus consistently and continually prayed. It was his lifeline to his heavenly Father. “As it is the business of Tailors to make clothes and Cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray”. —Martin Luther
2. Bible Study—Jesus was forever quoting scripture.
3. Worship—Jesus made a habit of gathering with God's people on the Sabbath. If it was a priority for Jesus, it should be a priority for us as well.
4. Inviting and Welcoming—Jesus invited people to follow him. How we share the Good News of Jesus may vary, but all of us are expected to spread the Good News in all that we say and do.
5. Christian Fellowship—Jesus spent time with his followers. We as disciples are to follow Jesus' example of being there for each other. We are to support and nurture each other spiritually as well as physically.
6. Service—Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. Our faith is to be active in doing deeds of charity. Service to others is a disciple's means of serving God.
7. Give God your best and first fruits—Throughout the Gospels Jesus shares in parable and in encounters with people the need to be good stewards of our talents and treasures. This is a biblical concept which centers us in the knowledge that all we have is a gift from God.

Let me leave you with this poem by G.E. Wagoner:

*If God can hang the stars on high,
Can paint the clouds that drift on by;
Can send the sun across the sky,
What could He do through you?
If He can send a storm through space,
And dot with trees the mountain's face;
If He, the sparrow's way can trace,
What could He do through you?
If God can do such little things
As count our hairs, or birds that sing,
Control the universe that swings,
What could He do through you?*



Yours in Christ, *Pastor Doug*



December 8, 2019 Council Minutes – The meeting was brought to order by President Jerry Liesener at 10:00 am. Devotions were led by Pastor Doug. Devotions for next month's meeting will be led by Gina. A motion was made by Franklin, seconded by Wendy, to approve the secretary's report for November as printed, motion carried.

Carrie Wendorf reviewed the treasurer's report. Motion by Doreen, seconded by Jerry to accept the treasurer's report and file for audit. All in favor, motion carried.

Pastor's Report – will be attending a continuing education course in Oregon the last week of January. On Sunday, February 23rd, Shorehaven Chaplain Nick Slater will be our guest and preach the message.

Parish Ed – Aubrey & Greta have been busy with Christmas program practice at Cross on Sunday mornings. Gina is assisting with the music and bells.

Worship – Met with Pastor Doug to review the worship services for Christmas.

Missions – had a successful response with the giving tree, added several items for the food pantry as well. Bread & Roses will be Thursday January 2nd.

Evangelism – January 5th we'll celebrate Epiphany with a king's cake and will un-decorate the church after worship. Zion will discontinue ordering Mt. Meru coffee, if anyone is interested in the coffee, we will combine orders with Cross, looking at scheduling a card making workshop sometime after Christmas. February 2nd will be Souper Bowl Sunday.

Building and Grounds – Franklin is meeting with someone about the windows.

Stewardship – follow up mailing will be sent to congregation members who did not complete their statement of intent.

Old Business – a replacement sign for the upper parking lot is on order. Council positions open for 2020 are stewardship, parish ed and evangelism. Please think about joining the council. Anyone interested can talk with a council member or Pastor Doug.

New Business – Carrie is working on the 2020 budget. Annual meeting will be Sunday February 9th. All committee reports are due to Danielle by January 19th. Motion by Carrie, seconded by Doreen to donate \$200.00 to A Child Smile program which helps a local family for Christmas.

Motion by Wendy, seconded by Gina to enter into closed session. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Wendy, seconded by Franklin to adjourn closed session. All in favor, motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be January 12th. Motion was made by Carrie, seconded by Wendy to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 am, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak

january

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

02 – Ele Mack
 13 – Allen Petersen
 16 – Philip Schultz
 28 – Paul Egholm
 30 – Kari Schoenike

LAY READER

Sally Schoenike

ASS'T MIN

05 – Carrie Wendorf
 12 – John Siedschlag
 19 – Jerry Liesener
 26 – Anna Gramling

GREETERS

05 – John Siedschlag Family
 12 – Bill & Ele Mack
 19 – Doreen Schultz
 26 – Sandy Jaeger

PROJECTION SYSTEM

05 – Loni Jaeger
 12 – Jerry Liesener
 19 – Annette Christopherson
 26 – Carly Christopherson

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

01 – New Year's Day
 06 - Epiphany
 12 – Baptism of the Lord
 18 – 25 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 20– Martin Luther King Day

USHERS

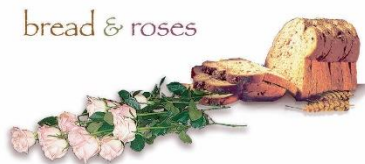
***Neal Wendorf Team**
 Sandy Jaeger
 Roger & Millie Kopfer

ALTAR GUILD

Millie Kopfer
 Lynn Clemans
 Deanna Braunschweig



November 24	43
November 28	81
December 1	58
December 8	42
December 15 - At Cross	



bread & roses

Dear Zion Members,

On Thurs. January 2, Zion will be serving at Bread and Roses.

Please consider helping with the following needs. Please email me with your donation of help or food items. There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thanks! Christine email: csiedschlag@att.net

- 6 Gallons of Milk
- 10 Dozen Dinner rolls
- 10 Bags of salad greens
- 10 pans of bars, cookies, mini muffins, etc.
- Volunteer at Meal



- *4 pm – December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship - Joint Worship Service with Holy Name of Jesus at Zion
- *6 pm – December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at Cross
- *10:30 pm – Joint Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service at Cross (with Holy Communion)
- *9 am – December 25 – Christmas Day Worship - Joint Worship Service with Cross and Holy Name of Jesus at Zion

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

DEADLINE for submitting committee reports is Sunday, January 19!

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.



Missions Committee Happenings...

On behalf of the Missions Committee, I would like to thank you for your generosity and support of the Giving Tree. We have collected many items that will benefit the residents of Shorehaven Health Care Center in Oconomowoc.

Blessings to all of you this Christmas Season.

Christine Siedschlag - Missions Committee



During the month of November, we collected over 300 pounds of food for the food pantry and collected \$580 in cash! Thank you so much for your generosity, we were able to stock the shelves and help families in need!

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Following worship service on January 5, we will celebrate Epiphany with a King's cake. You are invited to bring food or beverage to share.

Christmas Decorating

Thank you to those who gave their time in decorating our church this season. Our worship spaces are beautiful!

Un-decorating Church

Now comes the "easy" part – undoing all the festive decorations! We will be packing away everything on Sunday, January 5, after we enjoy fellowship and the King's cake. This shouldn't take long when we have all hands on deck. We could use at least one person willing to climb up the ladder to put the boxes up on the storage shelf downstairs. Any volunteers!



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.

Let's see who you think will win the **SUPER BOWL** by placing food items in the Souper Bowl containers benefiting the **ASHIPPUN FOOD PANTRY**. Watch for details!



It's finally here! The Great Pew Challenge

Have you ever wondered what the view is from another pew?
Would you be able to see the screen better from another pew?
Have you ever wished you could hear and see the children's sermon up close?



You can answer those questions and more by participating in The Great Pew Challenge!

Starting January 5, 2020, a scoresheet will be placed in each of your mailboxes listing all 30 pews. **

Here are the rules:

- Choose a pew you will sit in the *entire* service
- Record the date next to the number of the pew you sat in
- Only one pew per service
- Once you have recorded a different date in all 30 pews, place your scoresheet in the Evangelism mailbox. (*There could be a prize involved.*)

How are the pews numbered?

Pew No. 1 is on the left side closest to the altar.

Pew No. 15 is on the left side closest to the narthex.

Pew No. 16 is on the right side closest to the altar. (Yes, this is the pew Pastor sits in.)

Pew No. 30 is on the right side closest to the narthex.

This is a fun way to check out the "view from the pew". Who knows, maybe you'll find a new favorite!

** Additional sheets will be available if each member would like to record their date.

Things Happening Around Zion...

* December 19 ~ 6 pm – 7:30 pm - Adult Education at Cross

* December 24 ~ 4 pm – Joint Christmas Eve Worship Service at Zion with Holy Name

~ 6 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service at Cross

~ 10:30 pm – Joint Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service at Cross

* December 25 ~ 9:00 am – Christmas Day Joint Worship Service at Zion – with Cross and Holy Name

* January 2 ~ Zion will be hosting at Bread & Roses please email Christine Siedschlag at csiedschlag@att.net if you can help with any of the below...

- 6 Gallons of Milk
- 10 Dozen Dinner rolls
- 10 Bags of salad greens
- 10 pans of bars, cookies, mini muffins, etc.
- Volunteer at Meal

* January 5 ~ 8:30 am – Joint Worship Service at Zion with Holy Name (We will worship with Holy Name on the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 am). We will celebrate Epiphany with a King's cake and will un-decorate the church after worship. You are invited to bring a food or beverage to share.

* January 5 ~ The Great Pew Challenge starts today! See your January newsletter for more information.

* January 8 ~ 9:30 am – 11 am - Adult Education at Zion

* January 16 ~ 6 pm – 7:30 pm - Adult Education at Cross

* January 19 ~ DEADLINE: February Newsletter

* January 19 ~ DEADLINE: ALL Reports for the Annual Meeting

* January 22 ~ 9:30 am – 11:00 am - Adult Education at Zion

* 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 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.



The meaning of the

Snowflake

*Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Saviour's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.*

*Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the detail of us all,
and just as two are never the same,
the Lord knows and calls us each by name.*

*Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.*

*So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find
a reason to celebrate anew
and a reminder of His love for you.*

~Holley Gerth~