

Through Zion's Window

SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

You may have noticed that things seem a little different this year. As we enter into September, we normally look forward to a increase in the tempo of church life. Worship attendance picks up, Sunday School and Confirmation start up, adult education begins and, possibly most important, fellowship time allows us to reconnect with those whose busy summer months kept them away from worshipping with us on a regular basis.

That's the "old" normal! This year we find ourselves entering into a "new" normal that prevents many of the gatherings that feed our faith. The question that we need to ask ourselves in this new normal is: Is our faith still being fed or have we placed it on a strict diet? I ask this question because I have realized that I am struggling to remain enthusiastic about faith. That is not to say that I am doubting my faith or its role in my life. However, I am struggling to bring energy to my faith practices. This became very apparent as I was thinking about what to write for this month's newsletter.

You may have noticed that I didn't write anything last month. At the time I blamed my lack of creativity on the focus of re-opening the churches and all the details that went into doing so in a safe way. As the deadline for this newsletter approached, I realized that I was still struggling to be creative and enthusiastic. I mentioned to Starr that I couldn't come up with anything to write and, brilliant as she is, she said that was what I should address! After all, I'm not a particularly unique individual. If I'm finding myself struggling there is a strong probability that others are as well (Starr confessed she was having the same struggles).

Though I am an introvert my faith is best fed in fellowship with others. When that fellowship is lacking how can we attend to our faith? How can we continue to provide ourselves with a balanced diet that gives us the nutrients we need to grow our faith? I have some suggestions and would welcome hearing from you if you have found practices that are helpful.

1. In this time of stillness and waiting most of us are finding ourselves with more time on our hands. Time not spent commuting, taking kids to school and extra-curricular activities, or gathering with family and friends. Let's be intentional to set aside a portion of that time for our faith – we can read books and articles that engage our minds of faith questions; prayer; scripture reading.
2. When we find fulfilling or challenging ideas let's share them with others and have conversation about them. In this day and age, we are blessed with many means of communication – phone, text, social media, email, postal mail, etc.
3. Intentionally seek out "God Moments". Where do we see God at work in our lives and communities? I invited folks to share God sightings earlier this year. Let's restart that! I invite you to post your moments and sightings on our Facebook page. If you don't have Facebook email myself or the office, or drop us a letter, and we'll share your stories.
4. For about 6 weeks I invited folks to join me in a "Zoom" online gathering. It wasn't well attended however maybe it had more to do with the time or that it was a "meeting with the Pastor!" 😊. How about a church social by Zoom or other social media?

These are some thoughts. Let's feast together – we are still God's people called to walk with one another, support one another, and lift each other up. I know that I need the community to feed my faith and I'm certain you do as well. It is the nature of our faith. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Doug

P.S. Many thanks to Starr for her thoughts and ideas for this article!



July 26, 2020 Council Minutes – The meeting was brought to order by President Jerry Liesener at 9:40 am. A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Jeanine Heinrich, to approve the secretary’s report for June as printed, motion carried.

Discussion on re-opening church – please provide feedback to Pastor or any council member so we can make improvements to the worship service but continue to comply with the guidelines.

Old Business – Jerry reviewed the estimates he has received on the parking lot repairs and windows. For the parking lot, the estimate from PLM in Pewaukee came in around \$16,300. For windows, the estimate from Zuern Builders came in at \$9,500 for Frontline windows. Carpentry for the windows will be additional. A special congregational meeting is planned for Sunday August 16th at 9:30 following worship to approve both expenses.

New Business – Ventures in People, Haiti water project, has reached out for sponsoring students for the 2020-2021 school year. The 1-year sponsorship is \$175.00 per student. Motion by Jerry, seconded by Wendy, for Zion to support 6 students. All in favor, motion carrier. We encourage other congregation members to support this project as well. See Wendy for additional details.

Oktoberfest for 2020 has been cancelled. The committee is still planning to incorporate Oktoberfest into the worship service on October 4th and looking into an online basket raffle option.

Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Jeanine to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak



We are continuing with in person worship on Sundays and **starting September 6, we will return to our 8:30 am start time,** with communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays. If you are not comfortable attending in person, please do not, your safety is our first concern!

Our service is broadcast live (or you can watch it anytime) via our Facebook page: *Cross-Zion Parish*.

Office hours at Zion are limited as we have been practicing social distancing. If you need Pastor Doug, you may contact him anytime via cell at 262-490-8737 or email him at danderse@luthersem.edu. Or if you need to contact Danielle in the church office call her at 920-474-7234 and leave a voicemail or email zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com.

Congregational Meeting



A special congregational meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesener on Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 9:30 am. Jerry presented details on a bid from Parking Lot Maintenance for \$16,285 to fix the upper parking lot, large cracks in upper and lower lot, sealcoat, and paint parking lot spaces. Motion by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Debbie Guenther, to proceed with the bid from PLM for parking lot repairs. All in favor, motion carried.

Jerry presented information on the 3 replacement windows on the south side of the church building. A bid was received from Zuern in Watertown for Frontline Windows for \$9,500 plus labor costs. The stained glass and woodwork inside will need to be removed. Motion by Allen Petersen, seconded by Lester Schuett, to proceed with the bid from Zuern for \$9,500 plus labor. All in favor, motion carried.

Payment methods were discussed. Motion by Lester Schuett, seconded by Paul Egholm, to use \$12K from the Endowment Fund and the balance from the general treasury to pay for the building repairs. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Christine Siedschlag to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am.



With Oktoberfest being postponed until 2021, the Oktoberfest Committee going to do an on-line Facebook auction featuring 5 traditional Oktoberfest Baskets. Since the raffle baskets are always a top seller for the event, the committee wants to try something in its place for this year.

Anyone wishing to donate a basket, please contact Christine csiedschlag@att.net or 920-261-9678.



We will recognize God's Work, Our Hands/Day of Service, on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

We will not have a formal worship service this day as you are encouraged to volunteer in your community. This could mean helping at the food pantry, putting together school supplies, sewing blankets, volunteering at a nursing home, delivering food for meals on wheels, becoming a poll worker, etc. There are so many ways to help! As members of God's family, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We're here to minister, to serve. What better way to use our volunteer abilities than to get out there?! Your help is appreciated and needed.



**God's work
Our hands**

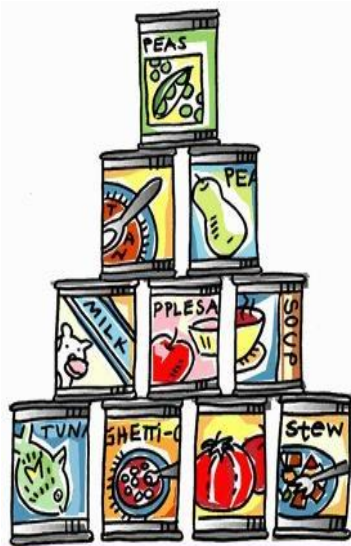
We are kicking off God's Work, Our Hands/Day of Service, with a food drive to benefit the Ashippun Bread Basket Food Pantry (see the next page of your newsletter details). A **BIG THANK YOU**, goes to to Shari Franke for volunteering to be our Ashippun Bread Basket Representative!

Zion Lutheran Church in Ashippun is hosting
 a **FOOD DRIVE** for the
 Ashippun Bread Basket Food Pantry

Sunday, August 30 - Sunday, September 6

(Donation bins will be placed outside Zion's front doors from
 7 am - 7 pm on these days for contactless donations)

The food pantry will take any and all non-perishable food
 items! They are currently looking for items that are
 normally not donated and are listed below.



FOOD DRIVE

Brown Sugar
 Powdered Sugar
 Baking Soda
 Baking Powder
 Canned Pineapple
 Canned Mandarin Oranges
 Small cans of Mushrooms
 Canned Asparagus
 Packaged Cookies or other snacks
 Fresh Apples
 Fresh Oranges

All food donated will help local families in need! If you have any
 questions please e-mail us at zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com or call our
 office at 920-474-7234. Zion is located at N557 Main Street.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 03 – Art Hall
- 05 – Kathy Hetzel
- 06 – Gina Altreuter
- 07 – Barth Liesener
- 11 – Laura Schoenike
- 18 – Linda Braunschweig
- 18 – Neal Wendorf
- 21 – Carmen Schultz
- 25 – Danielle Balmer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 20 – Bud & Erla Newbecker
- 21 – Gary & Debbie Guenther

USHER

- Barth Liesener**
- Shorty Schuett
- Ruth Peirick
- Millie Moldenhauer

ASS'T MIN

- 06 – John Siedschlag
- 13 – Jerry Liesener
- 20 – Anna Gramling
- 27 – Mike Johnson

ALTAR GUILD

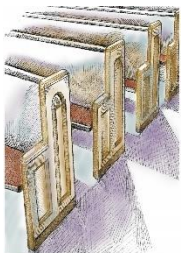
- Doreen Schultz
- Mary Lee Petersen

LAY READER

- Annette Christopherson

PROJECTION OPERATOR

- 06 – Cindy Wagner
- 13 – Linda Braunschweig
- 20 – Carrie Wendorf
- 27 – Loni Jaeger



View from the Pews

- Sunday, July 26 22
- Sunday, August 2 33
- Sunday, August 9 26
- Sunday, August 16 35
- Sunday, August 23 23

DATES TO REMEMBER...

- 07 – Labor Day
- 11 – Patriot Day
- 13 – National Grandparents Day
- 15 – Hispanic Heritage Month
- 22 – First day of autumn



**Sanitizing
Supplies**

With in-person worship resuming we go through a lot of sanitizing supplies! If you are in a store and happen to find sanitizing wipes or spray in stock, could you please pick it up for us? We would greatly appreciate it!

Please keep these people and families in your thoughts & prayers...

Art & Pauline Hall
Lois Wittnebel
Ellen Braunschweig
Shirley Chatfield
Carly Ostrom
Gordon Petersen
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Steve Fuerstenau
Wilber Pieper
Ross & Jacob Kopfer
Bonnie Katzfey





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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands.

A Pastoral Letter on these Troubling Times

*“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!*

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.*

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” (Psalm 80:1-7)

Dear friends in Christ:

We live in troubling times.

I had been intending to send a pastoral letter on the continuing challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic and how we are struggling to make decisions about how we will worship, connect, study, and serve, especially since it now looks like we will be well into 2021 before we can even begin to imagine returning to our buildings for large, in-person gatherings. Our partners in the [Wisconsin Council of Churches](#) have issued updated guidance on returning to worship and the results of a recent survey of Wisconsin faith leaders and the numerous stressors of this time. They report that 25% of the pastors responding have considered resigning or retiring due to the stresses of leading in this pandemic. I beg you, I urge you, to please be gentle with your pastors and with each other as you try to make hard decisions. Lean into the values expressed by Paul in Colossians 3:12-14, “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” None of us has ever lived through a pandemic of this magnitude, and the only way we will make it is if we do it together.

I have also been involved in a variety of activities concerning the second major pandemic we are confronting, the ongoing pandemic of systemic racism. On Sunday, August 23, I helped lead a Day of Repentance and Solidarity regarding the sin of racism in the white church. The video of this event is available on YouTube ([linked here](#)) and various resources are available at www.weraceahead.com. These include the invitations to participate in a sermon series and in small group conversations that will cross denominations and race to take the next steps on the long road of repentance and reconciliation. I also invite you to make use of two documents prepared for this event, one that details some of the history of how the white church has been



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God's Work. Our Hands.

complicit in perpetuating the sin of racism ([linked here](#)), and the other the actual litany of repentance used on Sunday ([linked here](#)). You are free to use them as you see fit.

And now, the events of the last few days in Kenosha, stemming from the shooting of Jacob Blake and the resulting unrest, have broken my heart. How can anything I or we say or do possibly be adequate in response to all that is transpiring? As the pain and anger and fear swirl within and around us, I would invite us all to resist the temptation to try to understand or fix things too quickly. As I said in my sermon that was released for use this past Sunday ([transcript linked here](#)), any answer that is quick or easy is rarely trustworthy. We need to allow ourselves to experience the emotions of this time and pray that God's Holy Spirit will break open our hearts that we might weep with those who weep, even as we may not fully understand.

And then, I pray that we will rededicate ourselves to the tasks of these troubling times. We have a long road ahead of us, as a church and as a society, to rebuild the trust that has been broken and to create systems that bring us together in ways that honor the dignity and beauty of each and every person. Regardless of which pandemic or challenge we are confronting, we need to listen to each other, we need to work together, and, more than anything else, we need to call upon the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to free us from our fears that we might step forward in faith, trusting that God has not brought us this far to abandon us now.

So, pray with me, dear church; weep with me; and then, walk with me, into the future that God is preparing for us now.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul D. Erickson