

Through Zion's Window

FEBRUARY 2021



Dear friends in Christ,

Believe it or not we are quickly approaching Ash Wednesday – February 17th this year. That signals the start of the Lenten season. Lent is intended as a time of reflection. We are called to reflect closely on how our life shows forth our faith. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to a closer walk with God. Often, as a symbol of our intent to place God at the center of our lives we choose to surrender something in our lives that will symbolize those other choices we make that do not

prioritize God. We make a sacrifice. This sacrifice itself does not bring us closer to God. God's sacrifice on the cross of Christ has already restored us to an intimate relationship with God.

This upcoming Lenten season may be the most difficult one I've faced in my faith life. It was in the third week of Lent last year that everything came to a crashing close. Though difficult because it was new the closing of the churches brought new challenges for me as your pastor to seek new ways for us to be a community in Christ together; to worship and be the church. This year – its old! The struggles are still there, but the uniqueness of the challenges is past.

It feels like we've already given up so much how can we make a new sacrifice this Lent? I think that is the central challenge to our Lenten journey this year. Because, while we have indeed given up much this last year, I wonder if we have replaced those things with a renewed focus on God. Or, have we found ourselves spending more time on our devices – smartphones, computers, consoles, etc.? These things are not bad in themselves, indeed they can be incredibly good for us to a degree. We stay connected with others, learn things, and continue to earn an income because of them.

This Lenten season I would like to encourage all of us to find ways to prioritize God once again in our daily life. There are many ways we can do this; and yes, some of them may even include more use of our devices.

- As I look outside this morning and see the snowfall, I also see the beauty of God's creation. Spending more time outside with an intentional focus on enjoying the beauty of creation and considering how we can work to protect and preserve it would be a wonderful Lenten discipline.
- Setting aside intentional prayer time, away from the clamor and busyness of the world (maybe while taking a walk outside 😊). Opening ourselves to God and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- Daily study of scripture and devotions. God has been revealed to us through the Word. Without spending time in the Word, we cannot grow closer to God. To be the incarnate body of Christ in the world we must learn intimately the life of Jesus.
- Gather together in community – safely. Just because we cannot always be in the same place with one another doesn't mean we cannot gather. This is where our devices can be a true blessing. By phone or video, we can check in with one another, pray together, and lift each other up.

These are only a few ideas. I encourage you to share others. Thank you for all you have done this last year as we have continued to be the body of Christ in our communities.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Doug



January 16, 2021 Council Minutes – The meeting was brought to order by President Jerry Liesener at 8:30 am.

Re-opening the church was discussed as well as communion distribution when we re-open.

The annual meeting that is normally scheduled in February will be postponed to a later date. Motion by Mike Johnson, seconded by John Siedschlag to adopt a continuing resolution to continue the 2020 budget until and annual meeting can be held, and a 2021 budget is approved. All in favor, motion carried.

Heidi Tunak, Doreen Schultz and Jeanine Heinrich resigned their positions on the council.

Christine Siedschlag nominated Heidi Tunak, Doreen Schultz and Jeanine Heinrich to fill the vacant positions on the council until an annual meeting with an election can be held. No other nominations were brought forward. Motion seconded by Carrie Wendorf. All in favor, motion carried.

Debbie Guenther has submitted a letter to the council announcing her retirement as Zion's organist. We thank Debbie for her sharing her many talents as organist, choir director, chime director and accompanying the children's program for 15+ years.

The annual chili lunch and pie auction has been postponed for 2021.

Missions – Zion will be hosting the blood drive at the Ashippun Town Hall on Monday, March 8th. The Giving Tree was another success. Thank you to all that contributed. Christmas gifts and goodies were given to the Ashippun Apartment residents.

Building and Grounds – the window replacement will be in the spring.

Evangelism – continuing to send cards to congregation members, Little Free Library book donations (especially children's books) can be dropped off at church, cards and small gifts are given to the Ashippun Apartment residents every other month. If you would like to assist with any Evangelism outreach, please contact Doreen Schultz or Linda Braunschweig.

Motion was made by Christine, seconded by Mike to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 am, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak



Worship with us the following ways...

Facebook: *Cross-Zion Parish*

YouTube: *Cross-Zion Parish*

Website: www.zionashippun.org

E-mail: You will be e-mailed the YouTube link when a worship service is available for you to view



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 07 – Shorty Schuett
- 14 – Ashlyn Schlieve
- 15 – Wendy Egholm
- 17 – Annalyse Heinrich
- 21 – Natalie Siedschlag
- 27 – Tessa Christopherson

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- African-American History Month
- 02 – Ground Hog Day
- 14 – Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 14 – Valentine's Day
- 15 – Presidents Day
- 17 – Ash Wednesday

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 13 – Mike & Kathleen Johnson
- 21 – Paul & Wendy Egholm



Would you like Pastor Doug to bring you communion?

If so, please contact him via cell at 262-490-8737 or email him at danderse@luthersem.edu. Or contact the church office at 920-474-7234 or email zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com.



Congregational Meeting



Due to the COVID pandemic and not being able to meet in person, Zion's church council has recommended that we postpone the annual meeting until we can meet safely in person again.

If the COVID numbers are low and we can meet safely in person in February, we will, so please make sure all your reports are turned in no later than **Sunday, January 31, 2021**. Otherwise, our annual meeting will be postponed until we can meet in person.

We will keep you posted as the time gets closer. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Jerry Liesener
Church Council President



December Total Income: \$7,594.15
December Total Expenses: \$10,882.59
December Overall Total: \$-3,288.44

Financial Update

Full financial reports attached to your newsletter email.

Thank you for continuing to support Zion! Please mail your gifts to the address below.

**Zion Lutheran Church
N557 Main Street, P.O. Box 254
Ashippun, WI 53003**

Your 2021 offering envelopes are in your mailbox in the narthex. Please contact the church office at zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com and make arrangements to get them.

The Little Free Library

The community really supports Zion's Little Free Library. Book exchanging has been going on and it continues to be exciting to see so much activity at our Little Free Library at the BP Station in Ashippun.

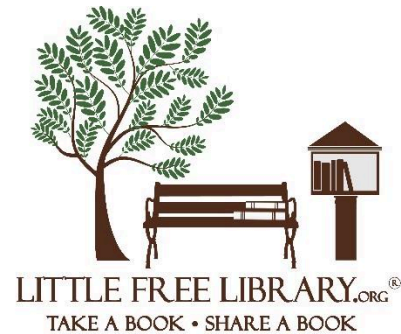
Special thanks to Friends of Zion for donating 15 children's books and to Emerald Clovers HCE members for donating 10 children's books.

Plans are to identify the books that are put in from Zion Lutheran Church, Ashippun. It will be interesting to see how far books travel and if a patron keeps the book, they will know where it came from.

If you have any questions about this project, let me know.

Thanks for your support of Zion's Little Free Library.

Sally Schoenike



Grocery receipts turned in totaled \$1,996.29. By the simple act of saving your receipts, you have continued to support Zion youth activities. Piggly Wiggly donates 1% of your total receipts to the youth account.

Thanks a whole bunch! Keep up the good work!



**American
Red Cross**

Blood
Services

Zion will be serving at the Ashippun Blood Mobile on Monday, March 8, 2021

Your help is needed! Volunteers needed for shifts 12 pm-3 pm and/or 3 pm-6 pm ~ Bar or Cookie donations needed too ~ Sign-up sheet in Narthex or you can call or email Christine Siedschlag at 920-261-9678 or csiedschlag@att.net

There's a critical need for blood, please donate...

Ashippun Town Hall

W1266 Hwy O

Ashippun, WI 53003

03/08/2021 | 10:00 AM - 06:00 PM

Note: Appointments and masks are required! Schedule online at www.redcross.org or call [1-800-RED CROSS](tel:1-800-RED-CROSS).



~Beatrice Zweig would like to thank everyone who sent her cards, flowers, and well wishes for her birthday. You made her day!

~Bud Newbecker sends a heartfelt thank you for all the cards, calls and well wishes from his Zion Family during his recent recovery from a fractured hip. Things are hopefully starting to look up.

~The residents at Shorehaven would like to extend their sincerest thanks to our Zion members for the generosity and thoughtfulness that was shown to the residents during Christmas. One staff member said it well... "I feel for a little while our residents actually stopped thinking about their sadness in not being able to see their families." What a gift!! Thank you for your generosity!

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



Art Hall
Ellen Braunschweig
Shirley Chatfield
Carly Ostrom
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Wilber & Barb Pieper
Ross & Jacob Kopfer

The Family of Nicholas Rennhack
(Beatrice Zweig's grandson passed away
unexpectedly on January 9)

SNOW ANGELS

*Not all Angels reside in the heavens.
Sometimes angels are just ordinary
people that help us spread our wings
here on earth...*



LENT TRIVIA

QUESTIONS:

1.How many days are counted in lent?

- A.30
- B.40
- C.46

2.What color is traditionally associated with the lent season?

- A.Green
- B.Purple
- C.White

3.Which day of the week is NOT included in the lent season?

- A.Friday
- B.Saturday
- C.Sunday

4.The main reason Christians give up coffee, chocolate or Facebook during lent is:

- A.Because they are bad for you
- B.To make space for Jesus
- C.To save money to donate

5.Some Catholic countries give up eating what during lent?

- A.Meat
- B.Shellfish
- C.Chocolate

6.Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday commemorates what?

- A.Jesus trials
- B.The last supper
- C.Jesus' execution

7.What food is often eaten on *Shrove Tuesday*?

- A.Shroves
- B.Pancakes
- C.Bread and wine

8.What is traditionally done on Ash Wednesday?

- A.A cricket match between Australia and England
- B.Clean out the chimney
- C.Put ashes on your forehead

9.On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what?

- A.A horse and cart
- B.The shoulders of his disciples
- C.A donkey

10.What word is not meant to be said or sung during Lent?

- A.Aleluia
- B.Amen
- C.Jesus

11. The Wednesday before Easter is called Holy Wednesday, but is also sometimes called:
- A. Easter Wednesday
 - B. Spy Wednesday
 - C. It doesn't have another name

ANSWERS:

- 1. B – Jesus spent 40 days fasting and being tempted in the desert.
- 2. B – Purple means both sorrow (because we do wrong) and royalty.
- 3. C – Sunday ~ because the Lord's day cannot be a day of fasting.
- 4. B – to make space for Jesus
- 5. B – Meat
- 6. B – The Last Supper
- 7. B – Pancakes. On Shrove Tuesday, people used up all their rich food (eggs, butter) to prepare for the limited meals and fasting during lent. 'Shrove' means to confess, they were encouraged to say sorry to God before the beginning of lent.
- 8. C – Put ashes on your forehead. The ashes are often from the burnt remains of last year's palm crosses.
- 9. C – Donkeys were viewed as animals of peace while horses were viewed as animals of war.
- 10. A – Alleluia. This exclamation of praise was not said so it would remain special and used to celebrate and praise God on Easter Sunday.
- 11. B – Spy Wednesday, because Judas spied on Jesus and his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane