

# Through Zion's Window

February 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

My wife, Starr, made a confession to me one Sunday not too long ago. She drifted away during the sermon!

The sermon started with a story from my Junior High School years (Middle School, for you Midwesterners). Of course, it was a story Starr knew well and so she began to think about stories in general. She wondered what it would look like for us if we told our stories the way so many of the stories of the Old Testament are told. What if we told our stories but put God in as the primary actor in our story, instead of focusing on ourselves. So Starr challenged me to tell a story that I have shared before but with the focus on God's activity, not my own.



A story I've been asked to tell many times is how and why I came to faith as an adult. My usual response has been, *"I met a girl whose faith was important to her and I liked her and wanted to be important to her as well. So I took the time to read the bible and go to church with her and, over time, my faith grew. When she got smart and dumped me I kept the faith."* As I wrote this I realized how trite and dismissive it sounds and how there is no recognition of God's activity. I know why I do it – I don't like to tell personal stories. But it fails to recognize that God's story continues in me (and all of us) today and into the future and we have a responsibility to keep the story alive.

And so, to respond to Starr's I will try to re-imagine how I can answer the question of how I came to faith.

*When I was a young adult God brought a young lady into my life in whom God had been active for many years. Through her family and faith community God had strengthened her faith so that she wanted God to be an active part of all her relationships. As we began to get to know each other God inspired her to share her faith in God and she invited me to be a part of that faith. In her church the Lord had a welcoming congregation that shared their faith stories and invited me to become a part those stories. For over a year God's Spirit was present in me and the faith community as I heard God's story preached and sung, taught and celebrated in Sacrament. The Lord revealed to me His story in Scripture so that, as my relationship with the young lady came to its closing, God had firmly embedded me in God's story. A story that continued in me and through me until God brought Starr into my life a couple years later and I told her that my faith was important to me and God wanted it to be a part of all my relationships.*



It's funny, I don't remember telling Starr that last part, but she remembers it! How we tell a story makes a difference for us and for our listeners. Do we see what God is up to in our lives? Do we dare to tell our beloved stories with God as a (or *the*) primary actor? Both of my stories are true, but one is shallow and egocentric the other full of promise for the future.

So, I'd like to challenge you to pick a story, re-imagine it, and tell it anew in a way that speaks of promises for the future for yourself and your listener. If you are truly bold, I'd love to hear your story. I invite you to share it with me anytime. By the way, this isn't a challenge you can fail, except by not trying.

~ Pastor Doug



**Church Council Meeting January 9, 2021,** The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesner at 9:38 AM. Devotions were led by Jerry Liesner. Christine Siedschlag will lead the devotions in February 2022

**Reports:**

Secretary's Report: The Report was Approved by the council

Treasurer's Report: The congregation's finances are in good shape and the end of the year report is complete. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor thanked Gina Altreuter for her work on the Children's Christmas Program.

Parish Ed.: Zion and Cross school age children will meet within the next few weeks for an activity period.

Worship: The committee is meeting this week to talk over settings for worship during the next two months.

Evangelism: No Report, we need someone for this task.

Missions: Christmas gifts were donated to the Klossner's Kids project and to Shorehaven. The proceeds from the sale of Culver's Calendars are going to purchase kids' books for the Little Free Library.

Stewardship: A total of \$59,000 in pledges for 2022 was reported.

Building and Grounds: An estimate of \$7500 was given as a cost to replace the steel door from the outside into the fellowship hall. We are still waiting on a price to replace the windows on the south side of the building by the choir area. The bell s not working well in the cold weather.

**Old Business:** Deanna Braunschweig has said she would serve on council. Zion plans to reduce the number of council positions from eleven to nine people once the annual meeting is completed.

Oktoberfest: We are planning to have the upcoming Oktoberfest like it was done in 2021. It was decided to use the fellowship hall floor for the band and dancing. However, the floor will need to be buffed out afterward.

**New business:** The idea to have a drive thru chili lunch and pie sale was discussed. A tentative date of February 27 was set.

The annual meeting date of February 13 is set.

Zion and Cross will split the cost to buy a laptop computer for the church secretary's use. Cost will be about \$1000.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches has recommended that all congregations go to virtual worship due to the spike in COVID cases. It was decided Zion will use spacing in seating, and unvaccinated people should be wearing masks. This policy will be in effect for the foreseeable future.

Zion will be donating the piano in the fellowship hall to Pecatonica Middle School located in Pecatonica, Illinois.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32AM We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.



Wednesday, February 2 ~ 10 am ~ at Zion  
Thursday, February 10 ~ 6 pm ~ at Cross  
Wednesday, February 16 ~ 10 am ~ at Zion  
Thursday, February 24 ~ 6 pm ~ at Cross

You are welcome to attend any session, at either location, you do not have to be present from the beginning.

## Adult Education



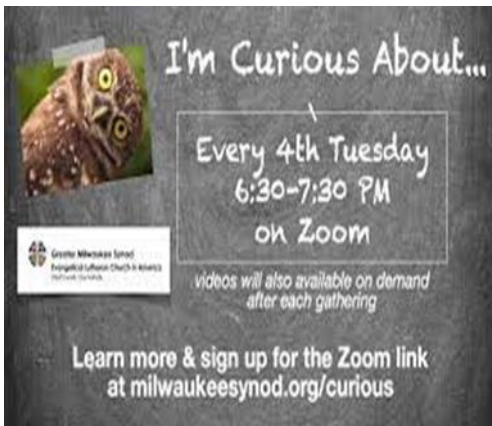
Pasta with the Pastor has been Suspended until the weather is better and the days are longer. Please stay tuned for more info.

To reserve a date or express interest please, ~  
[crosszionparish@outlook.com](mailto:crosszionparish@outlook.com) or leave a voicemail at 920-474-7234.

Please  
Pray  
for...



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



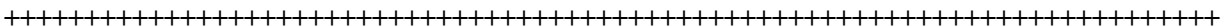
Beginning on in September, our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.

Contact Rev. Matthew Short at [matt@milwaukeeesynod.org](mailto:matt@milwaukeeesynod.org) with questions.



Pastor will be resuming Friday morning coffee at Whelan's at 10am. All are welcome!



### Annual Meeting February 13 after Worship

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 the 2022.



- **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



**American  
Red Cross**

Blood  
Services

Zion will be serving at the Ashippun Blood Mobile on Monday, March 14, 2021  
Your help is needed! Volunteers and Baked goods needed. Please watch for the poster on the board in the narthex. Thank you!  
– Christine, Zion Missions Committee



## Zion Lutheran Church Ashippun Annual Chili & Pie Lunch Sunday - February 27, 2022

Carryout or Curbside Pick-up Only  
9:00 am -12:00 noon

It's time to get out your pie plates and bake! We are looking for volunteers to bake pies. Which pie is your favorite pie to bake? We will be taking preorders for both chili and pie. Questions please contact Wendy Egholm.  
Thank you!

### MENU

**Chili by the quart, ½ gallon or gallon**

**Slices of homemade apple, cherry, rhubarb custard or banana cream pie**

**\*\*Free-will donations accepted\*\***

**\*\*We will be taking pre-orders only\*\* - *\*Last day to order is February 20<sup>th</sup>\****

**Please email [zion.chiliandpie@gmail.com](mailto:zion.chiliandpie@gmail.com) to place your order  
or text/call Anna @262-224-4944**

**Please specify how you would like your chili:**

**\*Cold\* to enjoy later or \*Warm\* to enjoy immediately!**