

Through Zion's Window



January 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

I received an email a while back from a member with some thoughts about how they struggle to put into practice what they believe – what they believe about what God is calling them to do and be, what they believe about the power of God to work in their lives, and what they believe about God's desire for them. The writer gave me permission to edit and use their words however I wanted, but I have left their words unedited. It is raw and personal and, I think, very powerful:

"I just read "["Duck Dynasty' Defenders: Have You Committed the Sin of Gluttony?"](#)" and it got me to thinking. Yes, I have committed the sin of gluttony a lot. It is one I struggle with every day. Almost 15 years ago our pastor preached on the sin of gluttony and it has come up many times in bible studies. I have been a part of faith-based weight-loss programs. I have read and researched many others that I have not been a part of. But I open my refrigerator and see it stuffed with food, I go to the grocery store and over spend, I make too much food for our small family and end up throwing a bunch away, and I eat too much of it myself. At this time of year there is always the "New Year's Resolution" moment where people try to get over the sin of gluttony. Most of us fail.

In thinking about why we fail and in my own struggles, I have to admit that I never really give this sin over to God and repent of it. I keep it to myself. I want to fix it through my own power. I want to be the one to get in control of my eating behavior. When I go to the faith-based weight-loss groups, I am full of doubt. I don't believe that it will work. I don't trust that God has the power to fix this problem in my life. And that perhaps is the root of the problem. We own our bodies too much – we believe that they are wholly ours, when, like everything else, they are God's on loan to us. Which is why we are to treat them like a temple, and not defile them; but we do, in so many ways, and we don't repent of it – we keep on thinking this is the area that we can control and fix. How often do we put our faith in human agents rather than in God. I am going to try and put the faith in God and give thanks for the human agents that he works through, but not put my faith in them to be the answer."

I invite you to join me in a serious inward examination of our lives. For the writer of the email the issue was/is gluttony, but the same words can be said about so many things – coveting, lying, cheating, sexuality and others. Do we dare be as honest with ourselves as this writer? I believe that when, and only when, we understand that God loves us and does not condemn us for our sins, we can look inward and not be appalled at what we find. Instead, certain of God's love for us, we can move forward.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug



Church Council Meeting December 2, 2021, The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesner at 9:17AM. Devotions were led by Carrie Wendorf. Jerry Liesner will lead the devotions in January 2022

Reports:

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

Treasurer's Report: Moneys in the fundraising account were moved to pay some bills. We have \$15,897 in the one account. The congregation is doing

well financially. The treasurer report was approved.

Parish Ed.: We will have a Christmas program during worship on Sunday Dec 19th at both Zion and Cross. The youth education at both congregations is going well.

Worship: No Report

Evangelism: No Report

Missions: There will be a meeting of the Oktoberfest committee on Monday evening to review the 2021 Oktoberfest celebration and how everything went.

Stewardship: The majority of pledges and time and talent sheets have been turned in. there are a few which haven't been received, but probably will not be coming in.

Building and Grounds: An anonymous person has offered to donate \$2500 to help replace the one projector in the front of the church. Total replacement cost is about \$4000.

Pastor's Report: Pastor said his review went well. He would like to have another review for Adeline our new secretary in another six months, with himself and two other members conducting the review.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New business: Zion plans on eliminating two council positions at the next Annual Meeting. We plan on going to a ministry team approach. *Example: Stewardship is just during the last three months of the calendar year. It does not have to be active the year round.* The council positions would be at large positions. As far as immediate needs, two new council members are needed for 2022 will possibly two more people to serve as back ups.

Franklin Wolter has offered to do the church custodian's position. His wife would assist. We also discussed the five hours per week would have to be increased in order for Franklin to do a thorough job.

We also discussed the cost of reserving the fellowship hall will cost \$100.00

A new vacuum cleaner purchase was approved.

We will be giving out gift cards for Christmas to the residents of the Ashippun Apartments.

Zion will donate \$1000.00 to the care of re-settling of several Afghan refugee families currently at Fort McCoy to the Milwaukee Area. The whole synod is sponsoring this project.

All reports from the council for the annual Report and Meeting are due by the end of the first week of January, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56AM We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.

We are rescheduling Jan. 5th Stay tuned for more info.
 Thursday, January 13 ~ 6 pm ~ at Cross
 Wednesday, January 19 ~ 10 am ~ at Zion
 Thursday, January 27 ~ 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



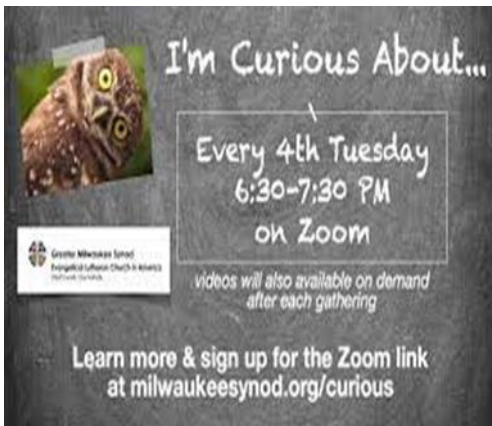
The second *Pasta With Pastor* will be (December has been canceled) **Sunday, January 9**, with the meal being served at 4 pm.

To reserve a date please, email ~ zionashippun@wi.twcbc.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
 Family of Arvon Kuehl
 Rev. John Siedschlag Sr.



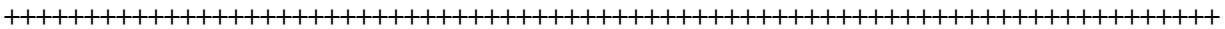
Beginning on in September, our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

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 with questions.



Pastor will be resuming Friday morning coffee at Whelan's at 10am Friday January 7th. 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. **Church Council Members please plan ahead and have your report turned into the church office no later than Sunday, January 9, 2022!**

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