

# Through Zion's Window

May 2022



Dear friends in Christ,

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Do you remember the Legend of the Touchstone? According to that ancient story, if you could find the touchstone on the coast of the Black Sea and hold it in your hand, everything you touched would turn to gold. You could recognize the touchstone by its warmth. The other stones would feel cold, but when you picked up the touchstone, it would turn warm in your hand.

Once a man sold everything he had and went to the coast of the Black Sea in search of the touchstone. He began immediately to walk along the shoreline picking up one stone after another in his diligent and intentional search for the touchstone. He wanted desperately to find this miraculous stone. However, after several days had passed, he suddenly realized that he was picking up the same stones again and again and again. So, he devised a plan... pick up a stone; if it's cold, throw it into the sea. This he did for weeks and weeks.

Then one morning he went out to continue his search for the touchstone. He picked up a stone; it was cold... he threw it into the sea. Over and over and over the same thing: He picked up a stone - cold! He threw it into the sea. He picked up another stone... it turned warm in his hand, and before he realized what he was doing... he threw it into the sea!

We can come upon a miraculous moment like Easter, we can feel it turn warm in our hands and inspire our hearts. But, dulled by routine observance, before we realize what we are doing, we cast it aside. Absentmindedly, mechanically, nonchalantly, we toss it aside and miss the miracle of Easter. You may need to have your eyes opened like Mary Magdalene or your hearts set ablaze like the disciples at Emmaus; but Easter is not just any other day. It is the day when Christ begins to turn back the grip of death. He is, St. Paul wrote, the first fruit of those who have died. He is not the first and last of resurrection, only the first. As the song says, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow."

Though we celebrate Easter on one, special, day; we will be in the Easter season throughout the month of May, until Pentecost on June 5<sup>th</sup>. It is my hope that in the weeks to come you will be reminded that wherever we go the Risen Christ is with us – in the joys of our gatherings and the needs, hurts, and tombs of our lives and those around us. Wherever Christ goes he reminds us that death does not have the final word; no, God's love is the final word.

We are overflowing with God's goodness! That's something worth remembering, worth celebrating throughout these weeks. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

*Pastor Doug*



**Church Council Meeting April 3, 2022,** The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesner at 9:35 AM. Devotions were led by Christine Siedschlag. Mike Johnson will do May's devotions.

**Reports:**

Secretary's Report: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Zion has received a gift of \$6265 from the estate trust of Alice Palmer. The money will be applied to help pay for the window replacements. A thank you card will be sent to the family.

Pastor's Report: None

Worship: Planning of Holy week schedule: Maundy Thursday at Cross, Good Friday at Zion. Easter Sunday will have Pastor Bruce at Zion, and Pastor Doug at Cross.

Parish Education: Children's activities are continuing with Cross, once a month.

Evangelism: Suzy Rather is learning the ropes from Doreen Schultz. Coffee hour will resume after Easter.

Missions: Ashippun Blood Drive had 82 donors. Zion will help at Bread and Roses on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The meals will be curbside for the time being. A contact person has to be selected for this ministry.

Stewardship: The plan is to do this differently this year.

Building and Grounds: Help will be needed to pick up outdoor area around the church. The hymnals from Immanuel are on hold for the present time. We are waiting for the Marvin window folks to get exact measurements for the replacement windows.

**Old Business:** It was suggested that Our Church secretary take on the role of Projection Set-up.

Discussion followed, nothing was determined.

**New business:** April 24<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Church Council to be installed. The council is beginning to put a job description together for the church secretary. Discussion was held about developing a system for checking email more frequently throughout the week, more discussion followed. Some of the information needs updates on the church website. Jerry is following up on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20AM We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.



## Adult Education



The last Adult Education class for the season will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Zion. We will then be taking a break for the Summer to resume in the Fall.

We will be looking at the next week's readings at each gathering. All are Welcome!



Dear Zion Members,  
Our Family would like to extend a special thank you for the calls, cards, memorials, prayers, and all the kind words of encouragement we've received for the loss of Rev. John and Virginia Siedschlag. We appreciate you remembering us during this difficult time.

Blessings to all of you,  
The John Siedschlag Family

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On behalf of Bread and Roses, I'd like to extend a special thank you to those that volunteered at the event and to those that shared the delicious baked goods. The group helped serve and package 240+ takeout meals that were shared with the Watertown Community.

Blessings to all of you for your generosity,  
Christine - Zion Missions Committee

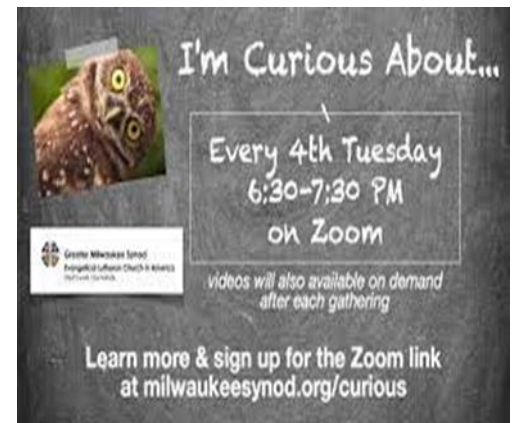




Ellen Braunschweig  
 Shirley Chatfield  
 Carly Ostrom  
 Peyton Wolter  
 Tom & Donna Meotke  
 Wilber Pieper  
 Ross & Jacob Kopfer  
 Patrick Jones  
 Art Hall

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.



**New DAY!!!!**

Pastor will be at the coffee shop, starting this next week, on Mondays from 10-12 am. All are welcome!

Mark your Calendars! Our Joint picnic with Cross will be July 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Harnischfeger Park. There will be a Worship service with a potluck afterwards. More details to come. Stay Tuned!





Mark your Calendars! Oktoberfest 2022 will take place on Sunday October 2, 2022. The day will begin with the Oktoberfest Worship Service led by Pastor Doug and the Goodtime Dutchmen Band. Guests will be able to view the many raffle baskets, quilt raffle, and purchase raffle tickets in the church basement. There will be food items available as usual, menu plans are underway. The Good time Dutchmen Band will provide music and dancing in the church basement. There will be no festivities held at the Maple Inn this year. Planning has just begun, updated times of the event will be posted in the newsletter as they are finalized. The Oktoberfest Committee will be meeting in the upcoming weeks. Please join us as we are excited to host this traditional Zion fellowship event.

Sincerely, The Oktoberfest Committee

## Registration is open for the 2022

### ProHealth Care Walks for Cancer

This year's event will be *virtual* and carry the theme "Choose Your Path." Participants can register at [ProHealthCare.org/WalksforCancer](https://ProHealthCare.org/WalksforCancer)

Registration for the walks is \$20 and continues through May 31.

Search for our Team: **Zion Spirit**

A T-shirt will be *mailed* to all registrants.

The 2022 Walks for Cancer shirts are **maroon!**



### Zion Members!

Since this years Walks for Cancer are virtual, how would you like to take a spring hike at Pike Lake State Park on Saturday, May 7? If interested, contact Doreen Schultz.