



THE LIGHT

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Southington, CT

October 2020

Vol. 4 Issue 9

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Zion,

This certainly has been a challenging year so far. What started out as year with us looking forward to a new beginning filled with excitement, has turned into a year full of roadblocks, each and every step of the way. Staying relevant while shutting down a church during a pandemic is a huge obstacle. Doing it when your Pastor has only been with you for 2 weeks, seemed almost impossible. Many significant milestones had to be postponed, including First Communion, Confirmation, and Pastor's Installation. Social events were cancelled, including our annual church picnic at Camp Sloper; all missed opportunities for our family to get to know Pastor Jeff and Debbie in person. And then, there was the cancellation of the Apple Harvest Festival, which meant more importantly, no Apple Fritters. How could that be? The Apple Harvest Committee met several times to discuss the possibility of holding an event on our own, but ultimately deciding it was not feasible. It was certainly a tough decision that no one took lightly and one I replay almost every single day, especially now as we are in the midst of the season and I see many of the local restaurants advertising their apple fritters. I know it was the right decision, but that doesn't make it any easier.

Fortunately, we live in an age where technology was able to fill some of the void felt during this period of isolation. We were able to hold virtual church services and broadcast them on YouTube and provide fellowship time, a talent show and committee meetings via *Zoom*. Not ideal, but certainly better than nothing at all. The silver lining in all this, is it has forced us to record our weekly services and offer opportunities to participate in meetings and events when attending in person is not possible, which we can now continue to provide even after the pandemic is over.

Like many I am sure, I miss my normal Sunday morning routine. Mine usually began attending the 8AM service, followed by coffee hour where there was an opportunity to catch up for the week with many in our Zion family and sneak a treat or two and a cup of coffee. I do miss Cindy's weekly run to Lewis Farms providing us with delicious sweets and her and many of our members baking magic. Life sure is different these days, but we cannot forget how truly blessed we are. Thanks to the flexibility of our members and the dedication of many, we have been able to worship in person, even as we have had to battle the summer heat outdoors and more recently, the chill in the air. Outdoor worship, bottle & can sorting evenings and group walks on the trails have given us opportunities to be together while practicing social distancing. Very soon we will begin worshipping indoors starting with our 4PM Saturday service. There are still a few hurdles to overcome, but none of them are overwhelming. Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our members and Pastor and his family and that certainly is forefront in minds of those involved in this process as we finalize the details.

Another concern during these past several months was how the pandemic would affect us financially. Fortunately, we came into pandemic fiscally sound. However, as a measure of caution, we delayed many of the projects we were going to schedule throughout this year. This became a necessity with the cancellation of the Apple Harvest Festival as we did not want to spend down our reserves. Our giving has been steady, which certainly has been a welcome surprise. However, we do still rely heavily on our Apple Fritter fundraiser to balance our operating budget as well as fund many of our capital projects, so this year is a special challenge and how we address it, will impact our future going forward. As I stated earlier, fortunately we came into this year fiscally sound and can weather the current storm, but we need to prepare for the storms of the future. The unthinkable happened this year, something we have talked about over and over and over for almost the last 50 years; what happens if we can't sell Apple Fritters? Hopefully this is a one year anomaly, but it gives us the opportunity and the urgency to develop a plan to reduce our reliance on this fundraiser going forward.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who has continued to fight for our church and work to keep things functioning as normally as possible. A special thanks to Pastor Jeff for his leadership during this time, Chris, who has been flexible and innovative in bringing us beautiful music each week with the help of many talented members and Christine, who has kept the office running like a top. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities, both virtual and in person, to stay connected with our Zion Family and getting to know Pastor Jeff and Debbie. I also encourage you to offer ideas, suggestions and concerns regarding worship, youth activities and fellowship and to also point out needs you see in our community that you think we should address.

Sincerely,

John E. Miller, President
Zion Lutheran Church



For Pastoral Care and Concerns,
 please contact Pastor Jeff Stalley
 by phone: cell # 860-490-5784 or
 email: pastor@zionlutheranct.org



Zion Lutheran Church
 531 Woodruff Street
 Southington, CT 06489
 860-628-5759
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'Blessing of the Animals' - Sunday, October 4th

"Francis of Assisi, who died on October 4, 1226, gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the *Order of Friars Minor* (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation and he is widely regarded as a patron saint of animals and ecology." *from 'Sundays and Seasons'*

It is a tradition in many places on the Sunday closest to October 4th, to include a '*Blessing of the Animals*' during the worship service. This year, October 4th is a Sunday, and we will be Blessing the Animals during the service. It works out perfectly because we will still be worshiping outside on that day.

You are invited to bring your pet to worship for a blessing. If it is easier, you can bring a picture of your pet. (Toy animals are welcome to attend as well!)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community of Zion,

Confirmation Sunday is October 25th at 10:30AM (there will also be a 9:00AM service). The service will be outside so that the Confirmation students can bring friends and family.

While we call it Confirmation, the service itself is called "Affirmation of Baptism". That started with the Lutheran Book of Worship (a.k.a. the Green Book).

If you look at the *Baptismal* service and the *Affirmation of Baptism* service, you will see that they are almost identical. Except that in the *Baptismal* service, parents and sponsors profess their faith and speak the promises. In the *Affirmation of Baptism* service, it is the youth that profess their faith and speak the promises. It is the day that they publicly say "Yes!" to God.

In between, through Sunday School and Confirmation Class, you have provided them with opportunities to learn about God and about being one of God's people. Through the Youth Group, you have provided them with an opportunity to know what it is like to be in a community of God's people.

While Confirmation Sunday is a day that the students will affirm their baptism and say "Yes!" to God, I invite you to think about your own baptism, your relationship with God, and being part of this community. It is my hope that you can see this as a day to affirm your baptism as well. That once again, you can say "Yes!" to God and to this community. Be well.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

ABOUT COMMUNION... If you are concerned about attending worship outdoors, or if you are in one of those categories that means you should not attend outdoor worship services, but want to have communion, we have a temporary solution. *Prepackaged* juice and wafer sets will be available on a table in the entry area of the church (where the devotional books usually are.) The door will be unlocked on Saturdays, between 9-11AM and 3-5PM if you would like to pick some up. Then, when you watch the service virtually, you can commune at the appropriate time in the service.



Please remember, if you are unable to attend our 'outdoor' worship services, we are still doing ministry in new and different ways. Please mail your gifts to Zion, 531 Woodruff St., Southington, CT 06468 OR donate through the website, zionlutheranct.org (Click on the "GIVING" tab.) You can set up automatic giving or a one time donation, it's easy... Call the office with questions!

Remember in Your Prayers



Our prayer list is updated monthly - Let us remember these people as we pray daily.

Members of Zion

Lord in your Mercy: Pat Beaudin; Jane Darling; Ginny Freeman; Linda Graham; Sue Skrzypiec; Carra Rockwood; Judd Family; Pastor Wayne Gollenberg; Justin Zitofsky; Joyce Sues; Woolley Family; Reinert Family; Daniel Bouteiller, III; Jude Radke; Lisa Miller; Melissa & Patrick Russell; Holbrook Family.

Those in Hospitals, Care Centers and Homebound:

The Summit - William Brown
Ruth Kurtz

Autumn Lake @ New Britain - John Day

Wedding Anniversaries: 10/2, Mary & Helmut Jobs; 10/6, Mark & Lisa Proffitt; 10/8, Emily & Andrew Denorfia; 10/12, Jeremy & Janice Zitofsky; 10/12, Jesse & Carol Wright; 10/13, Peter & Dawne Cappellino, Jr.; 10/14, Amy & Gary Burns; 10/19, William & Lydia Holbrook; 10/20, Bill & Deb Celani; 10/20, Amy & Dave Malsheske; 10/21, Lisa & Nicholas Gentile; 10/23, Michelle & Jeremy Adametz; 10/24, Kara & Daniel Bouteiller, Jr.

Family & Friends of Zion

Lord in your Mercy: Sam Bahr; Melissa & Family; Alyssa Boncer; Lynn-niece of Carol Wright; Richie C.; Courtney Campbell & Family; Roy Heinez; Kristen; Mark, cousin of Lois G.; Paul Godwin, brother of Lee Bluis; Gerturde Marquardt; Pesce Family; Jason; Romona Diana; David Neals; Alex Meyer, grandson of Ron & Lois Grizkauskas; Carlos and Brian, friends of John Miller's family; Megan; Mark Pavao, nephew of Lois Garafola; Katherine, granddaughter of friend of Mary Jobs; Abby Sullivan, friend of Mark & Lisa Proffitt; Megan Adole; Hala Jaser, friend of Cindy Babon; Danielle; Donald Reinert, father of Paul Reinert; Christine Armour, daughter of Bill & Deb Celani; Amber, David and Michael, family of the Cappellino family; Kevin Dolce; Cindy Woolley, daughter of Dave & Diane Woolley; Heidi R., friend of Pastor Jeff; Jeff Penoyer, son-in-law of Pastor & Debbie Stalley; Bob Steindl, father of Rob Steindl; Tori; Family of Kay Nemeth; George; Shelia; Dick, brother of Lee Bluis; Caroline, niece of Lee Bluis; Ralph Clough, father of Kara Bouteiller; Matthew & Lindsay Babon, son and daughter-in-law of Mike & Cindy Babon; Debbie & Fred, friends of Carra Rockwood; Darrell, Kristen, Mona, friends of Joan Cockcroft and Cindy Miller; Reno, friend of Ron and Lois Grizkauskas; Sarah, cousin of Cindy Miller.

Births:

Deaths:

Service, For the men and women in the military serving our country: Russell Karshis, cousin of Dawne Cappellino; Staff Sgt. Michael McKenney; GM Andrew Rauss, USCG, son of Steve and Diane Rauss; Major Zachary Fulton, USAF, nephew of Lisa Proffitt; Capt. Steven Hole, cousin of Cindy Miller; Danny Woolley, son of Diane and Dave Woolley; Matthew DeLorenzo, U.S. Navy, friend of the Doran Family; Kurt Oden, USAF;

Those in medical service during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cyndy Woolley; daughter of Dave & Diane Woolley; Tori Kryzwick, daughter of Christine Kryzwick; Christine Armour, daughter of Bill & Deb Celani; Donna Derwin; Jeff Penoyer, son-in-law of Pastor & Debbie Stalley; Cindy Babon; Janet Hanson;

To update or add prayer requests, please call (860)628-5759, or email - office@zionlutheranct.org

October 2020

Sunday School News

submitted by Ali Frega

Sunday School

**Rally Day is Sunday, October 4th
at 10:00AM outside near the Rose
Garden!**

Everyone is welcome to come join the fun! It will be a wonderful way to welcome everyone back to Sunday School as we look forward to an awesome year and get to see everyone again.

We will even have a special guest, Valentine the clown, to make our day even better!

We will begin our Fall Curriculum on October 11th at 10:30 via Zoom. Please check your emails for the link.

For families with students in multiple grade levels, please try to have more than one device set up for our Zoom. This will allow us to put your child into their classes easier.

Packets with the Leaflets for your children will be distributed on **Rally Day**.

If you cannot come on Sunday to receive your leaflets, please email

Ali at sundayschool@zionlutheranct.org so she can get those to you.

Confirmation

Pastor Jeff had his first class with the 9th Grade students on Sunday, September 27th. They will meet for the next few weeks as they finish their classes and prepare for their Confirmation at 10:30AM on Reformation Sunday, October 25th.

These classes will be held at Zion in the Rose Garden from 4 - 5PM (weather permitting)... don't forget your chair!.



The 6th- 8th grade students will begin their classes October 4th via Zoom and will continue with our 'Colaborate' curriculum. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back and continue working together.

Youth Group

Stay tuned for information... meeting dates will be forthcoming in the near future!



A Peek into Zion Nursery School

If it's September at Zion, it's time to have children in our nursery school! While we may not be allowed to have as many students during this very unusual year, the teachers are very glad to have so many back. We've made some changes to try to keep everyone as safe as possible but I'm glad to report that we have a lot of fun and learning going on here at Zion Nursery School!

LADIES LUNCH ON THE LAWN!

Thursday, October 8th at 12:00 Noon

Join us for a socially distanced gathering!

We will meet by the Rose Garden; bring a lawn chair and a lunch and enjoy some fellowship!



We look forward to seeing you! All are Welcome!

(Please be aware the church building will remain closed.)



LOOKING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please update the church office with your college address so that we can send a little something to wish them well!

Send addresses to office@zionlutheranct.org or call 860-628-5759.

Worshiping together...at a distance!



Zion Walks Update:

Because it's getting darker earlier, we are going to put the Tuesday walks on hold until next Spring.

For our Saturday morning walk we're going to try something new! On October 10th, we are going to walk the *Blue Trail to White Rock* so that we can enjoy the foliage. If all goes well, we will try again on October 24th. We will meet at the Holbrooks (1109 Mt. Vernon Road in Southington). Plan on it being about two hours.

All Dates - 7:30AM

- October 3rd - Rails to Trails meet across from Testa's
- October 10th - Blue Trail meet at 1109 Mt. Vernon Road
- October 17th - Rails to Trails meet across from Testa's
- October 24th - TBD (check the weekly email or contact Pastor Jeff @ 860-490-5784)

CAMP FIRE, FELLOWSHIP & SMORES!

Nothing to do on a Saturday night? Do you miss the camaraderie of the fritter preparations? Let's get reacquainted!

Join us for a



CAMP FIRE @ ZION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020
at 6:00PM

Come relax and join us in socially distanced conversation! BYOB, BYOS (snack), bring your own Lawn Chairs & Guitars too.

We'll supply the FIRE, individual packages of "make-your-own-smores" fixins (including sticks for roasting marshmallows!)

Corn Hole, Stump & Sidewalk Chalk will be available too. Bring other games to share!

Contact Lois Garafola with questions.

Hope to see you there!

During these difficult times when everything seems to be so different, it might be refreshing to continue our annual '*Operation Christmas Child*' shoebox ministry. We are hoping our Zion family will continue to support this program bringing joy to the needy children who receive your gifts. Look for more information soon!



amazon Shop at Amazon & Support Zion at the Same Time!

Zion is now registered under the *Amazon Smile* program, and when you sign up, Amazon will donate .5% of your total purchase price to Zion! What a wonderful way to help our church while you and your family shop!

Simply go to smile.amazon.com, log into your account as you normally would on the *Amazon* site. When prompted to select a charity, browse the list and select:

Zion Ev Lutheran Church, Southington.

(If you already have an '*Amazon Smile account*' and would like to change where your donation goes, click "supporting" at the top of the page and you can change your organization to Zion.) It's that easy! Then, each time you want to shop online, log-in at smile.amazon.com! (It's the same site you are used to.) For your privacy, Zion will not know what you purchased or how much is donated by individuals; we only receive a total at the end of each quarter.

Share this with your friends and family too...

Spread the word! (Call the church office with questions.)

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00AM WORSHIP Outdoors at Zion 11:00AM Virtual Fellowship Hour 4:00PM Confirmation (Gr.9)	28 6:00PM Bottles & Cans	29	30 7:30PM Bible Study	1	2	3 7:30AM Walking Group from South Center St. 11:00AM Private Baptism Outdoors 6:00PM CAMPFIRE & Fellowship
4 9:00AM WORSHIP Outdoors "Blessing of the Animals" 10:00AM RALLY DAY-Sunday School for ALL 4:00PM Confirmation (Gr.9)	5	6	7 7:30PM Bible Study	8 12:00PM Ladies Lunch on The Lawn	9	10 7:30AM Walking Group from 1109 Mt. Vernon Rd
11 9:00AM WORSHIP Outdoors 10:30AM First Day SS on ZOOM 12:30PM Private Baptism - Outdoors 4:00PM Confirmation (Gr. 9)	12 7:00PM Worship & Music	13	14 7:30PM Bible Study	15	16	17 7:30AM Walking Group from South Center St.
18 9:00AM WORSHIP Outdoors 10:30AM SS on ZOOM 4:00PM Confirmation (Gr. 9)	19	20 6:30PM Council	21 7:30PM Bible Study	22	23	24 7:30AM Walking Group Location TBD.
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:00AM WORSHIP Outdoors 10:30AM Confirmation (Gr.9) Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 7:30AM Walking Group from South Center St.

October 2020

Return Service Requested

Website: zionlutheranct.org

email: pastor@zionlutheranct.org

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