

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020



FROM BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON AND BISHOP GAFKIN

For he is our peace: in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. — Ephesians 2:14

In response to the grand jury decision in Louisville, Ky., we offer a word of prayer and healing following the decision not to charge police officers for Breonna Taylor's death. As a nation, we are struggling with and divided by the decision. It has affected so many of us in so many ways. We grieve the brokenness of the criminal justice system. We are tired and weary of the violence. Has not God created all of us to have inherent dignity, value and worth? Despite the anger, violence and injustice connected with this sad and horrible tragedy, we should not abandon our neighbors. Our baptismal covenant with God calls us to better relationship with one another than we are currently demonstrating. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ's presence in the world. The covenantal relationship we have with God in Christ leads us to our neighbors in a common cause to confront the reality of systemic racism in our country. We come together at the cross. The proclamation of the gospel is the only nonnegotiable in the life of this church.

Yet, we know the gospel can be divisive for us in our ministry for justice and peace. As we dwell in God's word, we pray God will give us the strength and the courage to act in service of the gospel's free course for the life of the world. Because of the cross, we have peace; we have hope; we are loved. We join with you in prayer for the Taylor family, Officer Hankison and his family, the prosecutor and his family, the grand jurors and their families, the community of Louisville and all who work for justice and peace.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

William O. Gafkjen



Ponder Anew...what the Almighty can do!

I am continuing to let you know about our participation in the Synod's congregational series Inspire. Ignite. Invite. As I said previously, we have a team made up of Amy Neild, Teresa Pattison, Carol Miller and myself that attend monthly Zoom meetings. In those meetings, there is a theme, a review of any homework/challenges we were to do from the previous meeting, a Scripture study that applies to our theme, an activity and prayer. The theme for session 3 was "Considering our Mission/Purpose".

For you to ponder:

- 1. Think of a time when a stranger helped you or you helped a stranger.*
- 2. Think about someone whom you admire/respect for being committed to a cause or idea.*

Next, as we read/listened to Scripture, we kept in the back of our minds, I notice...I wonder... It was read 3 times.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

We talked about what we noticed/wondered about and then considered these questions:

- 1. Some would call this text Jesus' mission statement. Thinking about Jesus' life and ministry, name some of Jesus' teachings/actions that fulfilled this mission.*
- 2. Write a mission statement for your life- what would you include? How is your mission statement connected with Jesus' life and ministry?*
- 3. How specifically and concretely do you see Zion's mission statement connected to Jesus'?*

Finally, we were given these final things to consider in the next month.

- 1. Last time we gave thanks for gifts from God. List some ways that you have used these gifts for the common good.*
- 2. Read and pray through the list that you just made. How might this list reveal some of God's purposes for your life? How is your life influenced by having the Spirit of the Lord upon you?*

Ponder Anew...what the Almighty can do! *Continued*

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I continue to ask you to send me your feedback. I have received very little. Please, as I share with you what we are learning and applying, will you join in? Jot me a note, email, text or give me a call and let me know how you would respond.

Since we can't gather as we once did, this is a way for all of us to join in the process to help us build a Thriving Zion.

COVID has given us a wonderful opportunity to continue to reflect, pray and plan. It takes all of us and we'll get out of it what we put into it. (If you would prefer that your answers not be shared with council, with others in the congregation or in our meetings, please let me know and I will honor your request.) Thank you for your participation so that we may truly become a Thriving Zion. Blessings to each of you as together we share Jesus Christ for Life, albeit in a different way!



Pr. Amy

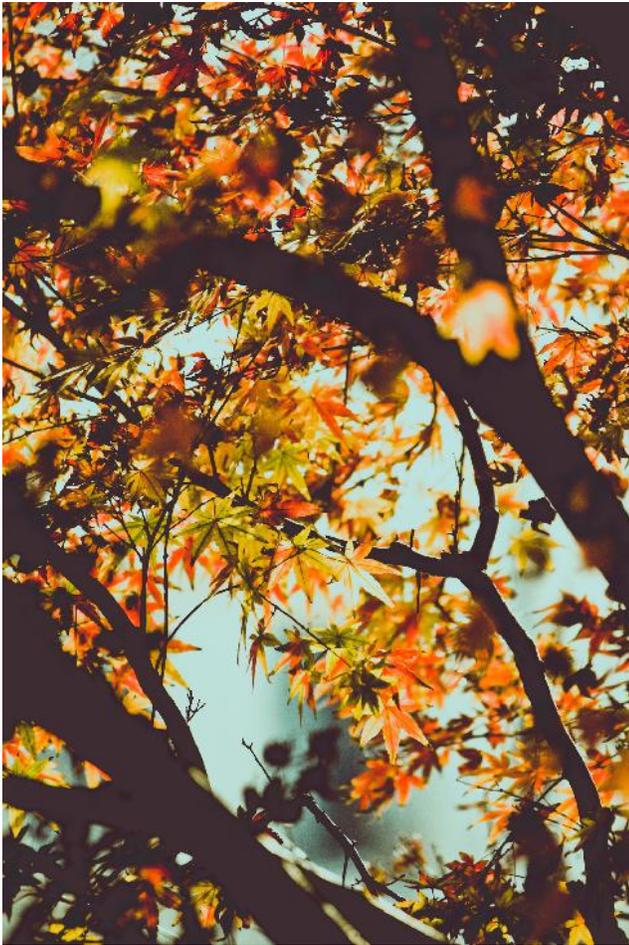
However your Thanksgiving celebrations may occur or be different than usual, may it be blessed with gratitude, love, grace and, of course, some good food!

Happy Thanksgiving!



"THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR"





Scripture for November

November 1: 1st Reading: Revelations 7:9-17

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Psalm: 34:1-10, 22 Gospel: Matt 5:1-12

November 8: 1st Reading: Amos 5:18-24

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Psalm: 70 Gospel: Matt 25:1-13

November 15: 1st Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalm: 90:1-8[9-11]12 Gospel: Matt 25:14-30

November 22: 1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Psalm: 95:1-7a Gospel: Matt 25:31-46

November 29: 1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Announcements

November 15- Community Thanksgiving Service; Location will be in the High-School parking lot

Congratulations to Stan Escott on the publishing and release of his new book *Life For Barabbas!*

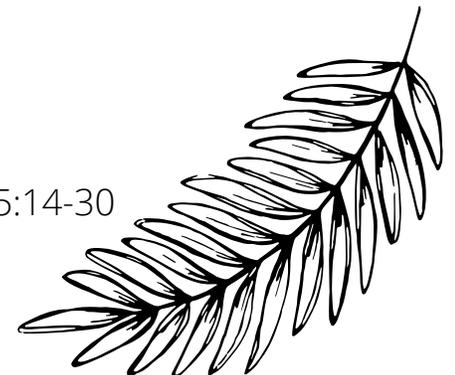
Blessings to you, Stan!

Did you notice that Pastor Amy and So Much More Ministries are in the November Edition of Living Lutheran?

Your talent is God's gift to you.

What you do with it is your gift back to God

Matthew 25:14-30





Report from Council

Your Church Council continues to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as together we face the significant challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. We all wish for a speedy return to some sense of normality. However, that is highly unlikely; especially with the current spike in new cases in our area, state, and nation. This novel virus is forcing us, individually and as a congregation, to do things differently and going back to the way we did things before COVID-19 is unlikely. Some things, unfortunately, will never be the same. Your Council remains intent on doing things safely; following the CDC, federal, and state guidelines and recommendations; and listening to the health concerns of members.

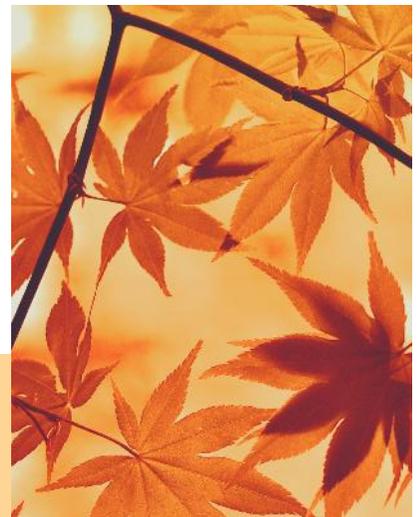
Worship in the Sanctuary - We have worshipped in the sanctuary for the past 4 weeks and it has gone well. Worshippers continue to wear masks; we practice social distancing; and there is no congregational singing. We believe we are offering a safe worship experience. The sanctuary certainly provides adequate space for social distancing and we have plenty of room for more folks. If you are unsure about returning to in-person worship, we understand; but we encourage you to give this some consideration and discuss your concerns with Pastor or any member of the Council.

Live-Streaming - We hope those of you worshipping from home are enjoying the live-stream video of the service. While it's still a work in progress we feel it is going well thanks to the technical skills of our videographer, Chloe Steele, with support from Cheryl Working and Tony Miller. Live-streaming gives you the opportunity to worship with us, virtually and in spirit.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our live-streaming process please call the church during office hours and share your ideas with Chloe or Pastor.

New Administrative Assistant - We welcome Chloe Steele as our new Administrative Assistant. She replaces Clayton Marcum who has found other full-time employment. We wish him well and thank him for his past service to Zion. It will take a little while for Chloe to learn all the details of the position but we feel she will become oriented in a fairly short time. Call the church office, 982-6570, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and become acquainted with Chloe. The Council is grateful for your ongoing support of Zion and our ministries.

Dave Lawrenz, Council President





*Let all that you
do be done in love*

1 Cor. 16:14

Hello All!

My name is Chloe Steele. I am the new Office Administrator for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church!

You might already know me from other work I have done for Zion, Livestreaming/social media, or from Daniel's Place. Though my work is a large part of how I know Zion, I also attended Vacation Bible School here many years ago and was first introduced to Zion, through my Grandparents, William and Rebecca Steele, who were members of Zion.

I am very excited to share my love of organization and art through this position. I am also looking forward to meeting and building relationships with the lovely members of Zion!

Please feel free to stop by to introduce yourself or offer words of advise! Office hours will remain to be Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Thank you so much for your support!

Chloe Steele



Pray for one another

Current: Robert & Lois Dowd, Clayton Marcum, Becky Oden, Nancy Jamerson, Dean McKinley, Jayden Plotner, Mary Lou Rohrer, Lynn Losby, Amy, Haley, John, Janet Dale, Kathy Sipes, the Rapley family, Bill Leonard.

Ongoing: Jon Perkins, Linda Rager Hampton, Peggy Gilbert, Mara Joy Nelson, Owen Vannoster and his family

Homebound: Marie Betten-Niccum, Bo & Joanne Boettcher, Nancy Coble, Betty Hamlin, Ruth Hauser, Betty Lawrenz, Vada Lee Nixon,

Conference and Community: Come2Go Ministries in Fort Wayne, Eberhard Lutheran Church in Columbia City, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in LaOtto, and Eel River Community Church of the Brethren.

Community Meal: Gary for surgery, Donna, Bob, Lynn, Paul, Ray-pneumonia, Barbara's hand, Lynn's cancer, Cathy, Elizabeth, Leo, Colt, Kenny, John, Jim, Sue, Vera and family with Bill's death, Carol Ann, Steve, Margie, Alicia and birth of baby, Dawn, Doug, Calipha, Alison, Matt, family, our country especially with the election and the threat of violence because of our division, farmers to finish the harvest, an end to the virus, all who are sick especially with COVID, the world, the weather.

Inspire. Ignite. Invite. Cohort 1 Congregations: Grace & Glory, Goshen, KY; Bethany, Indianapolis; Zion's, Pershing, IN; Calvary, Cromwell, IN; Grace & Peace, Evansville; Gethsemane, Indianapolis

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/26 Darell & Betty Yankey

NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Janet Shull

11/18 Marie Betten-Niccum

11/18 Patty Grant

11/28 Marcia Cole

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

11/2 Earl McKinley

11/3 Lin Metzger

11/5 Mary Beth Perkins

11/13 Zachary Hawkins

11/22 Emily Neild

11/24 Jack Vineyard



The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling to belong to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our faith; to believe in Jesus Christ by virtue of our faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; to be sent by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities and to the ends of the earth.

**Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Happy Thanksgiving!