

## A message from the Pastor

### Discipleship is a Contact Sport!

As I write this, Super Bowl Sunday is just a few days away. Now, I'm not a fan of a particular NFL team. I don't know which teams are having a good season or which teams are at the bottom of their division. And when I watch a game, I have no idea who at the line of scrimmage is a tight end, a fullback or a wide receiver. But I do follow the people stories from the world of football. In football – and in all sports – there are some great stories about character, leadership, team building, and how to handle both victory and defeat with grace.

I started reading sports stories as a teenager when my father would share the books he was reading. And one of the first sports personalities I encountered was Vince Lombardi. And for some reason I remember that he once said: "Dancing is a contact sport; football is a hitting sport!" And I was reminded of that this week when I read in a worship resource: "As the gospels reveal, discipleship is a contact sport – with Jesus and with world, all the while in the presence of the promised Spirit – and it's not an easy one at that."

As we begin Lent, that's something for us to keep in mind. During Lent we will come in contact with the stories of a wide variety of faith ancestors. Adam and Eve. Abraham and Sarah. Nicodemus. The woman at the well. Martha and Mary. The parents

of the man healed of blindness. These stories will remind us that discipleship is not easy. Some days we play well and other days we disappoint our fans, our teammates, ourselves and our coach. But coming in contact with Jesus in Word, prayer, song and sacrament, does two things. It forms us as disciples, and it assures us that God's grace means we will never be cut from the team!

So that makes Lent a season of conditioning us for the sport of discipleship. Lent is a church season that encourages us to keep in contact with the means of grace that build our characters, teach us leadership, shape us as a team and enable us to handle victory and defeat with grace.

God's peace to you in the living out of your faith,  
Pastor Kathleen

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## Readers Needed to Help Share the Good News!



Extra readers will be needed for some of our Lenten and Holy Week services! (This is to include varied voices to our hearing of scripture in addition to the voices of the lectors for the day.) If you're interested in taking part, please watch for bulletin and email announcements about signing up. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the atrium bulletin board as Lent gets closer.

## Do you have a child who is ready to make their First Communion?

At Zion, any baptized child is welcome to receive the bread of the Lord's Supper during worship. We call "First Communion" the service at which our kids begin to receive wine or grape juice along with the bread. If a child in your family is ready to do this, we invite them to attend a communion workshop where we'll teach them about the Lord's Supper. At this workshop they will also help bake a batch of communion bread. We'll serve this bread and celebrate their First Communion at our Maundy Thursday worship service.

The workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.** (Snow date: March 28<sup>th</sup>.) Our Maundy Thursday service will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please call, text, or email Pastor Kathleen to let her know if your child/children would like to participate (pastor\_kathleen@harris.net or 201-317-8578).



## Do you have a favorite bible story or scripture passage?

Do you have a favorite bible reading? If so, would you be willing to read it at a church service? Most of the passages that people treasure come up at some point in the three-year cycle of bible readings used in worship. If you let pastor Kathleen know what your favorites are, she'll watch for them to come up in the cycle. And then she'll invite you to read at whichever worship service you prefer to attend.



**2020**

### **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **Executive Board:**

<b>President:</b>	Lisa Denelsbeck
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Donna Womelsdorf
<b>Secretary:</b>	Darlene Hagel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Janet Shechter

#### **Council Members:**

Jodi Cahalan  
Carol Faust  
Laura Findeison  
Megan Kelly  
Jill Madden  
Tonya McNeil  
Eden Mohammed  
Dawn Naylor  
Linda Stewart

Committee assignments will be decided at the first meeting in February. We welcome our newest members and give thanks for all who serve. God Bless all of you!

## Always a lot happening at Zion – and we're grateful!

Since our last newsletter so much has happened and so many people have made those happenings possible! Thank you to everyone who took part in:

- Cleaning up of our section of Bremen Avenue.
- Cooking and packaging our sharing and caring meals.
- Hosting the funeral luncheon for the Neate family.
- Providing hot chocolate and cookies to the community at the EHC Christmas parade.
- Guiding our children in presenting the Sunday School Christmas program.
- Creating and leading our Advent, Christmas, and Lessons and Carols services.
- Decorating and undecorating the sanctuary for Christmas – it looked beautiful!
- Taking care of our buildings and grounds by: replacing cracked floor tiles; pruning bushes; acquiring and installing a new dishwasher; hanging storage racks in the sacristy; cleaning the basement; acquiring and installing a dehumidifier in the basement; donating new white boards to the confirmation classroom; and replacing light bulbs and fixtures with energy-efficient/cost saving bulbs and fixtures.

Thanks,  
Everyone!



## Read the New Testament in 40 Days!

Here's a suggestion for a Lenten spiritual practice – reading the entire New Testament during the 40 days of Lent! Beginning Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, handouts will be on the table in the narthex to help you do this. One plan guides you through the New Testament in the order in which the books were written; another one guides you through the books in the order in which they appear in our bibles. Both plans require about a half hour of reading each day.

**DFORTY**  
**Days**  
**OF LENT**



## Remembering the Four Chaplains



The members of the American Legion Post 158 invite you to a service honoring the memory of the four chaplains, **Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

On February 3, 1943, these four men made the ultimate sacrifice and gave up their life jackets, so that four others would live. They went down with the ship, the "USS Dorchester", in the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

The Legion Hall is located at 529 Philadelphia Avenue. Pastor Glenn Englehardt is the guest preacher. Light refreshments will follow.



*By now you have all heard the news of my decision to retire from Zion. Since the announcement was made, I've heard, "what will we do without you? How can we go on?" And while it is true, things will be "different" it is also true that it will all be okay!*

*Awhile back, I found a list that the historical committee had prepared. On it were the names of all the secretaries that worked here before me, and it was not a short list! Wilma Boileau was in this chair before me and she taught me everything I needed to know. As the "new kid on the block" it was not easy to be filling Wilma's shoes, but together we all transitioned well, and the rest is history! When the new person is hired, I will be here to train and assist and before you know it, you will all be working well together!*

*Just last year we came together and celebrated my 25 years at Zion. It was a beautiful day that left me feeling blessed and full of joy. I will cherish the memory of the day forever. It is for that reason that I have requested we not host another "big" party for my retirement. Let's all just remember that day for the gift that it was and consider it a celebration of not only my 25<sup>th</sup> year but also a celebration of my retirement from Zion. P.S. We could have coffee and donuts one day if you like!*

*Yes, in April, I am leaving the daily routine of working here at the church, but I am not "leaving"- John and I will be traveling, but we are not moving away from the area. We can still talk on the phone, see each other out and about, and share in the joys and the sorrows that will come in the years ahead.*

*This morning a song popped into my head, that I haven't hear or sang in a very long time. "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" – and I thought to myself – that's it! He has the Zion congregation in his hands; he has Pastor Kathleen in his hands....well you get the gist!!*

*God Bless you Zion! We all know it's going to be okay! "He's got the whole world in his hands"...keep singing!*

*Nancy H.*

## KEEP KEEGAN CRUISIN'



The Findeison Family would like to thank everyone who purchased a T-shirt and/or made a donation for Keegan! There are still a handful of t-shirts remaining. Please contact Laura at 609-453-5412 if you would like a shirt or would like to make a donation. There will be additional fundraisers in the months ahead! Please stay tuned as the family continues to raise money for the handicapped accessible van!

### You may follow Keegan on:

Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/keep\\_keegan\\_cruisin/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/keep_keegan_cruisin/?hl=en)  
 Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/keepkeegancruisin/?ref=bookmarks>

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR HEARTBEATS**  
**January 2020 Comparison**

	2020 INCOME		2020 EXPENSES		DIFFERENCE
	This Month	YTD	This Month	YTD	YTD
Current Operating	\$ 13,339.00	\$ <b>13,339.00</b>	\$ 15,653.05	\$ <b>15,653.05</b>	\$ <b>(2,314.05)</b>
Restricted	\$ 407.50	\$ 407.50	\$ -	\$ -	
Building Fund	\$ 373.50	\$ 373.50	\$ 11,719.75	\$ 11,719.75	
Total	\$ 14,120.00	\$ 14,120.00	\$ 27,372.80	\$ 27,372.80	
	2019 INCOME		2019 EXPENSES		DIFFERENCE
	This Month	YTD	This Month	YTD	YTD
Current Operating	\$ 14,406.00	\$ <b>14,406.00</b>	\$ 10,498.73	\$ <b>10,498.73</b>	\$ <b>3,907.27</b>
Restricted	\$ 359.70	\$ 359.70	\$ 925.74	\$ 925.74	
Building Fund	\$ 833.00	\$ 833.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 15,598.70	\$ 15,598.70	\$ 11,424.47	\$ 11,424.47	

**REMARKS:**

*This report will appear in Heartbeats each issue.*

*Current Income is money received from Envelopes, Plate, Flowers, Sunday School, and money not designated for a specific purpose.*

*Restricted Income includes all money received and designated for a specific purpose.*

*The YTD Difference column shows whether we have spent more or less than we have received for current expenses.*



**THANK YOU** for picking up your 2020 offering envelopes! In order to keep track of your giving you must use your envelopes and/or put your envelope number on all donations. Without the number we cannot guarantee your donations will be on your giving statement! If you prefer to not use envelopes, we can assign a giving number to you! Please ask how! Throughout the years, we have worked on reducing the amount of boxed sets we purchase. Most who give through Simply Giving, no longer use envelopes!

**DID YOU KNOW? THE SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM** allows you to have your offering sent automatically to the church. Signing up is easy - just follow the link that can be found on our website: <http://zionlutheranchurch.us/> OR contact the church office. Donations are debited from either a checking or savings account and remember: **if your financial situation changes you can adjust the amount at any time.** Thank you for considering this option!

We also thank our members who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion Lutheran Church. Eligible Thrivent members can authorize Thrivent to distribute charitable grant funds directly to Zion. If you want to learn more, please visit their website: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

**PLEASE NOTE: There is a deadline each year for designating these funds! Check it out!**



## HOLY WEEK

### **Palm Sunday - April 5**

Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday - April 9**

Worship 7:00 p.m.

Celebration of First Communion

### **Good Friday - April 10**

Community Service at Noon at the  
Macedonia Baptist Church

### **Zion Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

7:30 p.m.



## *Easter* SUNDAY

**April 12, 2020**

**Worship Services will be held at**

**6:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Join us for breakfast immediately  
following the early service in Miller Hall*

Watch for signup sheet to volunteer  
to help with the breakfast meal

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### **Usher Meeting: Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (10:15 – 10:45)**

- ✓ All current ushers are encouraged to attend this meeting for a refresher about the duties and roles of worship ushers and to hear about the role of our new security ushers.
- ✓ People interested in becoming an usher will find this meeting helpful too!

### **Brown Bag Bible Study: Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Gathering Room)**

- ✓ Herodias and Herodias: Not So Sexy After All
- ✓ Reading: Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 3

### **Ash Wednesday Services: Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

- ✓ 1:00 p.m. Spoken-word communion service with distribution of ashes
- ✓ 7:00 p.m. – Communion service with music and distribution of ashes

### **Lenten Learning: Thursday evenings during Lent beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>**

- ✓ Pot-luck Supper – 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
- ✓ Program and Vespers Prayer – 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.