

# Focus

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

September 2020

To the Zion Faith Community:

For many of us, living through the Covid-19 virus has meant letting go of life rhythms we've known and counted on—people, places, and habits that once grounded us. This letting go, for some, has led to significant isolation; while for others it's led to the rediscovery of walkable neighborhoods and creative ways of staying connected. Debra and I have particularly enjoyed wonderful summer days on Shawano Lake, drawing closer to a few young families in our neighborhood, and some special times with our family. The safety calculation of course is in avoiding the virus and it has become the dominant lens for all of us.

In so many ways we have been incredibly blessed at Zion. It has been a godsend to have been able to live stream worship through this period; yet it is no substitute for being with the physically gathered community. And while there are many things we miss, we have grown accustomed to our forced flexibility. And perhaps are less apt to take things for granted in the future.

***Where do we expect to find God these days? How do we expect God to show up for us?***

The Scriptures record many stories of how, through the ages, people and prophets have had to come to terms with new ways of understanding who God is and how God might show up among us. I draw our attention to the prophet Elijah, whose battle against Israel's worst king on record—King Ahab—and his evil wife Jezebel had taken its toll. Even after defeating the 450 priests of Baal in one of the most celebrated contests recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures, (check it out—1 Kings 18:20-40) Elijah was feeling more vulnerable than confident. So when, in the aftermath of that encounter, Queen Jezebel puts a bounty on his head, Elijah flees for his life, journeying 40 days and 40 nights to the holy mountain of God – Horeb. Elijah arrives there feeling depressed, defeated, fearful and alone. He wonders whether all his efforts for God's sake

have been for naught. Exhausted, he crawls into this cave and he waits for a sign.

There's a lot packed into this story, into what precedes it and what comes after it, but three verses captured my attention. Elijah is commanded: "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." And so Elijah, bone weary, looks toward the mouth of the cave. This is what happens next:



*There was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces...but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. – 1 Kings 19:11b-13*

It's when Elijah hears that SILENCE—so deep, so pervasive that it tugs at his ears—that he wraps his mantle around his head, crawls to the mouth of the cave, and he stands up before the LORD. Elijah has been around God long enough to learn that God may just show up in ways we least expect—not through outsized events or huge natural phenomenon or feats of strength, but in the form of sheer silence (RSV: "still small voice").

The answer to the question: "WHERE WILL GOD SHOW UP FOR US DURING THE PANDEMIC?" may surprise us. The story of Elijah invites us to not come to conclusions too quickly about where we can find God, but to remain open to how and where we see God manifested during this vulnerable time. To listen for that "still small voice" which can only be heard when we learn to filter out all the other loud, boisterous, public, competing voices which vie for our attention.

Bolstered in God's blessings,  
*Pastor Scott Ludford*



## Zion Members Receive \$32,510 in Scholarships and Grants

Zion Endowment Committee met on August 13 and awarded over \$32,510 in scholarships and grants. Ten Zion members received a total of \$28,000 in college scholarships: Emily Jones, Grace Jones, Marcus Welander, Lauren Welander, Ryan Steffen, Jessica Nead, Katelyn Hoffmann, Chloe Krueger, Ava Retzlaff, and Tyler Konkel. Also receiving grants were Connor Neumann Sleeper \$2,000 for YWAM and Zion's Church in Society Wee Care program a grant of \$2,510.

- Emily will be a Senior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in Music Education.
- Grace will also be a Senior at UW-Stout majoring in Engineering Technology.
- Marcus will be a Junior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in Music Education.
- Lauren is a Freshman at UW-Stevens Point studying Psychology and Sociology.
- Ryan will be a Senior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in Family Consumer Sciences.
- Jessica will be a Sophomore at Wartburg College and will be majoring in Biology/Neuroscience.
- Katelyn will be a Sophomore at Marion University studying Radiological Technology.
- Chloe will be a Freshman at Marquette University studying Biomedical Sciences.
- Ava is a Sophomore at UW-Green Bay studying English Education.
- Tyler is a Senior at UW-Stout studying Business Administration.
- Connor's grant to Youth With a Mission (YWAM) will provide training as a Missionary Member in the School of Biblical Studies Teaching Staff.
- The grant to Zion's Wee Care program will provide additional funding for school children's weekend nutritional support when school breakfast and lunch programs are not available.

### Endowment Fund Committee Members:

Sharon Erickson	Dennis Nelson
Mary Ann Rudie	Leigh Welander
Gordon Holten, Council Treasurer	
Al Wichmann, Council Representative	



**Our Goggle calendar  
available via our website.**  
Stay up-to-date!

[www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)

# Happy Birthday



**Frederick Goering... 90 on September 10**  
N6446 Emery Ansorge Rd, Cecil 54111

**Marilyn Holten... 85 on September 11**  
W5061 Stark Rd, Shawano

**Julie Effenberger... 60 on September 25**  
119 Gannon Court, Shawano

**Russell Konkel... 60 on September 26**  
1470 S Park St., Shawano

*Happy birthday to the 59 other members  
celebrating in September!*

## The Parish Records



### Received into Membership:

† Timothy "Tim" Nordin

Tim joins by affirmation of faith. He and wife Kelsey are having their son, Tristan, baptized at the 5:00 pm service on Saturday, Sept. 12.

## September Ministries

It would be an understatement to say that this September is going to be unlike any in the history of this congregation. We will be deliberate and prayerful as we move forward in these unusual and trying times.

Worship will continue as we have during the month of August. We have spread out your worship opportunities throughout the week so that we don't run the risk of overloading the sanctuary.

† **Wednesday Worship** is outside (11:00 am & 6:00 pm) unless bad weather takes us inside.

† **Saturday Worship** is in the sanctuary (5:00 pm).

† **Sunday Worship** is at the Shawano County Park (9:30 am) through September.

**Sunday School** will begin live in-person **at the park** (following the 9:30 am service). This will be an all congregation; cross-generation Sunday school. I dare say that it's never been done before, we don't know exactly what it will look like, but together as a congregation we will grow our faith! Material will be available at the site and on [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org).

**9th Grade Confirmands** will begin *Saints & Servants* Sunday evenings, September 20 & 27 at 5:00 pm preparing for making Affirmation of Baptism in October.

**6th-7th-8th Graders** will begin Confirmations classes in October. Details will be worked out this month.



## TAKE OFF THE MASK!

Masks...they're all the rage aren't they? You can match them to your outfit, show off your favorite sports team, or wear one that's completely crazy.

There's cloth ones, disposable ones and masks that are N95 (whatever that means). In these days of COVID-19 some places require them, some encourage them and others still leave it up to the individual.

When it comes to wearing them, there are the people who gladly wear a mask because they believe that it helps make a difference and then there are those people who think that masks are part of a vast conspiracy theory and that wearing one impinges on their freedoms. So along with all the other things that separates us in this country, we are divided over whether or not to wear masks.

Now let's be honest! Masks are hot. They make it hard to breathe. You sound muffled. When you talk while wearing a mask people can't see your face and if you wear glasses, you walk around in a literal fog all day long. So we can all agree on one thing; everybody dislikes wearing masks!

But you know something? We've been wearing masks our entire life, so we ought to be used to it by now. From the time we began caring about what other people thought about us, we started to wear masks. Why

we even have a mask we wear around our friends, another one we wear at work, yet another at church and yes, we even have a special one we wear at home!

We wear these specialized masks because we are afraid. We are petrified that if someone saw us for who we really are, if people actually knew what was behind the mask, they couldn't possibly love us. Somewhere along the way we have convinced ourselves that the only way for us to be safe in this big bad world is to hide behind a mask, so no one can see the real me.

It's to take these masks off! Read the words the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:10, ***"For we are what he (God) has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to, be our way of life."*** WOW!

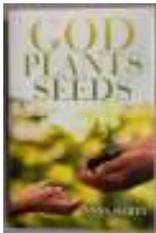
The Almighty Creator of the heavens and earth made you just like you are and when you are what you are for a reason; a reason that God prepared before you were ever born to be your way of life...well, there's no reason to hide behind a mask. You are who you are supposed to be, you are a "Child of God," and you were created in God's image.

Let people see the amazing person that you are, let them experience the wonder that is you, and by all means – don't hide yourself behind a mask. Let your light shine in the world, take off your mask!

In God's ministry,  
*Pastor Scott Ludford*

## God Plants Seeds

by Anna Hartt



We all have a purpose on this earth, ordained by God before our births. After planting seeds of character and talents within each of us, God fills the hourglass of our lives with time and love. What we do with these gifts determines what we harvest from the fields of our lives—ubuntu.

In a contemplative compilation of both fictional and other writing extracted from her real-life experiences, Anna Hartt shares four dreams presented as short stories, inspirational poems, prayers, travel adventures, and additional tales for children and adults that reflect on her trails, relationships, and God's influence.

This beautiful book is available on Amazon and at [www.annahartt.com/](http://www.annahartt.com/). You can also contact Deborah at 715-851-4771.



**"We're grateful for the checks that you have put in the collection plate, but in order for us to cash them, you'll have to make them out to the church, and not 'The Big Guy Upstairs.'"**

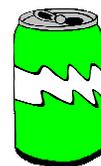


## Financial Stewardship Update

General Fund as of July 31, 2020

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>
<b>YTD Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$193,524</b>	<b>\$217,073</b>	<b>-\$23,549</b>
<b>YTD Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$199,649</b>	<b>\$217,488</b>	<b>-\$17,839</b>
<b>YTD Total Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$ 6,125</b>	<b>-\$ 415</b>	

This report does not include special offerings such as Building Funds, Restricted/Special Funds, memorial gifts, etc.



## Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!

The Youth would appreciate your donations— which must be bagged —as a fund raiser.

## Treasurer's Report by Gordon Holten, Council Treasurer

Through July General Fund expenses exceeded revenues by \$6,125 which is typical for a summer month. As these figures show our General Fund picture through July, revenues were under budget about \$23,500. General Fund balance at the end of July remained unchanged from an adjusted June, at about -\$10,596.



*Be a good steward!*



To connect with our youth visit  
[www.facebook.com/  
ZionYouthShawano](http://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)



**Car Wash Cards! \$36 for 5-Count**  
Youth Fundraiser! Ultimate Wash cards will be available from youth and in the church office!  
Thank you for supporting Zion's youth!

## ☪☪ Thank you! ☪☪

Dear Pastor Ludford & Zion,

We cannot even begin to thank you enough for all you have done for us at Wilderness! From sharing your expertise with technology in the sanctuary to opening your church to Pastor Paul for a tour, and especially the gift of so much sound equipment. You have truly blessed us and showed God's amazing love to us! We look forward to breaking bread with you when we gather again.

~ Rev. Paul Johnson  
Lutheran Church of the Wilderness, Bowler

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Just a note to thank you for providing us with space for our club get-together at your church parking lot in June. Special thanks to Pastor Ludford for providing and hauling tables and chairs. God bless you all.

~ Shawano Woman's Club

Dear Friends at Zion,

Thank you for all your prayers these past several weeks. I have completed radiation therapy and am continuing medication treatment. Your prayerful support means a lot to me.

~ Dennis Draper

Dear Zion,

Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts. I would especially like to thank Marah Nelson for her visits and continuing calls. Thanks also to Yvonne & Ted Wolf, Renee Elertson, and Mary Ann Rudie for their thoughtfulness, and Pastor Scott for his visit. I am sure all your prayers brought me back. God bless you all.

~ Al Teetzen

Zion Endowment Fund,

I want to thank you for the scholarship which will help with the payment of school so I can continue my education. Thank you!

~ Katelyn Hoffman

Dear Zion Endowment Fund Committee,

Although COVID-19 has been a little tough on all of us, God had a plan. Zion thought of the seniors (myself included) and performed such a great task, not only did the gift bring tears to my eyes, but love to my heart. I can not wait to worship with you all again. God is so good and I thank him every day for putting people like Zion members in my life.

~ Chloe Krueger

## From Your Parish Nurse...

### September 28 Blood Drive

September 28 the Community Blood Center of Appleton will be at Zion. This is the second blood drive that was hosted here at Zion. The Community Blood Center relies on area businesses of all sectors and sizes to host over 100 mobile blood drives each month.

Blood carries gases, nutrients and waste products through the body. Blood also fights infections, heals wounds and performs many other vital functions.

There is no substitute for human blood. It cannot be made or manufactured. Volunteer blood donors are the only source of blood for patients who need blood transfusions. Blood contains a number of different components, and doctors use component transfusions to give patients exactly what they need.

Blood contains three different components. Red blood cells which carries oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. The shelf life is 42 days and is given to trauma victims, and surgery patients. Platelets controls bleeding by forming clots. It has a shelf life of 5 days and is given to cancer patients and trauma victims. Plasma contains proteins that help stop bleeding and has a shelf life of 1 year. It is used for burn or trauma victims.

Blood types are determined by genetics. Donors can give whole blood every 56 days. Every 2 seconds a patient in the U.S. needs blood. One pint of blood can

save up to three lives. All blood donors of all types are need.

Donors must be 17 years old (16 with parental consent). Weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Donors will need to bring a photo ID, a list of medications and international travel history.

Donors will undergo a brief health screening before donation. Your temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin level will be checked. In preparation before donating it is suggested to drink plenty of water and eat healthy meals days before donation. Before donation eat a healthy lunch and drink 8-10 glasses of water, avoid caffeine and wear a short-sleeve shirt and comfortable clothing. At the end of your donation you will be offered a beverage and snack. After 15 minutes you are able to leave.

Please consider donating if able on September 28 from 1:30pm until 6:00pm. The Community Blood Center will have their Blood Mobile located in the church parking lot. A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Desk. You can also, register online by visiting [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org). Or calling 800-280-4102. This blood drive is hosted by the Health Ministry Committee.

For more information go to [www.communityblood.org](http://www.communityblood.org) or [cbc@communityblood.org](mailto:cbc@communityblood.org)

John 15:13 *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



**Health Ministry Committee**  
will meet via ZOOM and in Room 101  
on Tuesday, September 8 at 12:00 pm.  
*New members are always welcome!*



**The Community Blood Center**  
*will be at Zion!*  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**  
**1:30PM – 6:00PM**



To schedule your life-saving appointment call 800-280-4102. Or register online at [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org) and use Sponsor Code OT71.

**In need of a ramp to be built for a family member.**

If anyone has the time and loves to work on projects like building ramps, please let me know and we can work out details. Please leave a message on my office phone 715-526-2017. Thank you. ~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



**Become a “Friendly Visitor”**

New Visitors are always welcome. Come join, experience the rewards of providing this ministry!



**Zion's Prayer Chain**

If you have a telephone prayer chain request, please call Co-Chairs, Winnie Preston 715-526-5018 or Eileen Elertson 715-526-3500.

## Memorial Gifts through August 31, 2020

Special gifts "in honor of" or  
"in memory of" to:

### In Memory of Tom Rhode:

- **Building Fund** by  
Tom & Judy Laude
- **General Fund** by  
Ginny Vraney
- **Health Ministry Fund** by  
Bob Voss
- **Music Fund** by  
Diane Rugalski, Zion Choir  
Al & Marge Wichmann, Joanne Horn  
Mike & Dorothy Eidahl  
Linda & Harold Burrack  
Woody & Donna Davis

### In Memory of Jack Weldon:

- **General Fund** by  
Ted & Mary Ann Rudie  
Dejon Polzin
- **Health Ministry Fund** by  
Gibby McKinney, Bob Voss  
Bob & Dolly Burdick  
Al & Marge Wichmann
- **Library Fund** by  
Joni Shebuski

### In Memory of Chuck Bruhn:

- **General Fund** by  
Susan Cawley, Don Heinz  
Brian & Kathleen Kane, Valarie Abel  
Kelly & Ward Symens, Kjell &  
Arliss Oliversen, Julie Effenberger
- **Endowment Fund** by  
Mike & Dorothy Eidahl
- **Health Ministry Fund** by  
Al & Marge Wichmann
- **Music Fund** by  
Al & Marge Wichmann  
Diane Rugalski, Dawn Brock  
Sandra Rhode, Joni Shebuski



### Building Fund

By: Ken & Bonnie Wolf  
In memory of Nancy Wise's brother  
By: Julie Effenberger  
In memory of Karen Palmer

### Church in Society Fund

By: Doug & Christie Wegner  
In memory of Ken & Bonnie Wolf's  
Brother-in-Law

### General Fund

By: Eileen Elertson  
In memory of Jerome Schuelke  
By: Julie Effenberger  
In memory of Karen Palmer

### Health Ministry Fund

By: Bonnie & Ken Wolf  
In memory of Kathy & Fred Beyer's  
Daughter-in-Law  
By: Steve & Renee Elertson  
In memory of Pauline "Foxy" Sohr  
By: Ginny & Dick Vraney  
In memory of Bernadine Wendt

### Education Fund

By: Jean Broder  
In memory of Karen Palmer  
By: Sandra Rhode  
In honor of Lorin & Winnie  
Preston's 50th Wedding Anniversary  
By: Mike & Dorothy Eidahl  
In memory of Len Heling's Mother,  
Mae Heling

### Library Fund

By: Joni Shebuski  
In memory of Diane Rugalski's  
Cousin

### Music Fund

By: Sandra Rhode  
In memory of Kathy & Fred Beyer's  
Daughter-in-Law  
By: Dejon Polzin  
In memory of John & Dejon's 62nd  
Wedding Anniversary

### Youth Fund

By: Peggy & Jim Ray  
By: Ken & Bonnie Wolf  
In memory of Ken & Bonnie Wolf's  
Brother-in-Law  
By: Mike & Dorothy Eidahl  
In honor of Lorin & Winnie  
Preston's 50th Wedding Anniversary



*Sponsor a  
worship  
bulletin  
in honor or  
in memory of someone!*

The \$20 sponsorship fee  
goes into the General  
Fund to offset the bulletin  
cost. Contact the office  
to reserve your  
sponsor date!

## September Worship...

**Outdoors  
on Zion's  
Lawn**



**Communion  
Services**

### Wednesday

11:00 am  
& 6:00 pm

*Bring a lawn chair  
if you wish!*

### Saturday Worship

5:00 pm in the  
sanctuary.  
Masks required.

### Sunday Worship

9:30 am at the  
Shawano  
County Park.



are also available online at  
[www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)  
Click on Daily Devotions  
on the menu bar.

Our calendar is available on  
our website. You can  
always stay up-to-date!



[www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
ZionYouthShawano/](https://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano/)



### 310 School Backpacks Given Away August 17!



Vehicles lined up in Zion's parking lot and down Union Street to receive free school backpacks from the *Backpacks for Kids* program!

Pastor Ludford helped distribute fruit which was donated by Goodwill Industries of Shawano.



Zion Lutheran Church  
1254 S. Union St., Shawano WI 54166-3461

Rev. Scott Ludford, Senior Pastor  
Debbie Bernard, Administrative Assistant  
Jill Sousek, Organist and Music Director  
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Phone: 715-526-2017  
E-mail: [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)  
Web site: [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)



#### E-mail address:

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Debbie / Office ..... [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)  
Jennifer Greiert..... [nurse@shawanozion.org](mailto:nurse@shawanozion.org)



The church office will be closed **Monday, Sept. 7** for Labor Day.

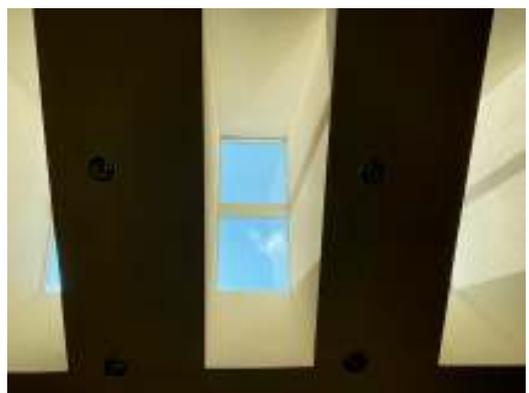
*The Community Blood Center will be at Zion!*  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**  
**1:30PM – 6:00PM**



To schedule your life-saving appointment call **800-280-4102**. Or register online at [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org) and use Sponsor Code OT71.



The August 1st Relay for Life event was a huge success! Thank you all for your support!



The new south-side skylights are in! We thank Jim Wiegert for the great job!