

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,



As summer fades into autumn, folks at St. Paul are busy making plans for the remainder of 2018. Our year began with the formation of a call committee who have been diligent at the tasks before them. Quickly an excellent and honest profile of our congregation was assembled. Thom announced that the committee is currently interviewing pastors who have expressed an interest in being our pastor. Our congregation has met with Zion Lutheran for worship and a picnic hosted by our neighbors to the north. My thanks to all who have participated in both events. We are making plans to host Zion on September 16th and I hope all of you welcome those who worship with us that Sunday. In my absence during two Sundays two assistants to the bishop led worship so that we had an opportunity to know them better and they became familiar with us. All of this is happening during a time of transition. My thanks to all who are assisting our congregation: those in our congregation and members of Zion and members of our synod staff.

Transitions are times of discomfort for all involved. Things will not remain the same and we are creatures of habit. St. Paul wrote many letters addressing the stress of adapting to a new way of living and a new way of believing. The beautiful words of I Corinthians 13 were written to a conflicted congregation. If you read between the lines, it becomes obvious that some folks were clinging to old ways of doing things, People were insisting on their own way of doing things, some folks were resentful. Most of the congregation was not so patient. Folks were not being kind to one another. The real zinger was when Paul contrasted the difference between childlike behavior and the behavior expected of mature adults. Paul loved the congregation at Corinth and wanted them to be unified, to uplift one another as they worshipped one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Paul also addressed 2 problems that always hang over a congregation: the nature of leadership and the elusive character of Christian unity on Ephesians 4. In his eloquent words, Paul urges the congregation to:

“live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (4.1-3)

Of course it is easier said than done! That is always a task of our leadership and membership. That is why the call committee and council have had frequent meetings throughout the summer months. Transitions bring out the best and worst in us. Children best exhibit the stresses of transitions. Last spring my niece’s family was trying to move during the constant snow storms in New Jersey. The children worried about where they were going to sleep each night, what their new bedrooms would be like, what would their new school settings be, could they make new friends, and would the family from western PA visit. There was some bed wetting, refusing to eat new foods during lunch in new settings, and constantly reminding their parents of what was left behind.

There will be changes for us as we transition with another congregation to call a pastor. Changes in worship time, worship format, meeting times, sharing worship and council meetings, getting adjusted to a new pastor and that person’s strengths and weaknesses. We know it is time for a change because the old ways of doing things haven’t been so effective. Learning new ways of doing things is awkward. This is true both for congregations and for pastors. You

can ask John Bulger about learning to adapt to different congregational styles of worship. Where are the offering plates, who says what prayer, how are hymns introduced, how are people greeted and included and invited and welcomed. Such are some of the challenges of transitions.

St. Paul reminds us that we are all called by Christ to lead a life worthy of the calling. But each of us is given different gifts for our ministry. Differences can result in conflict or enhance the depth, breath and scope of our ministry. Hopefully we will continue to be patient and kind, loving one another and being the unity of a congregation that loves Jesus.

One transition that will happen very soon is that I will not be preaching most Sundays. My RA continues to progress as chronic progressive diseases do. I will continue to be the local interim pastor, attending council meetings, teaching catechism, visiting the sick and homebound. John Bulger, the synod staff and I are working out a worship schedule for the months ahead. I will continue to lead worship on special occasions: funerals, baptisms, weddings, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday etc. I love and respect all of you and am changing my "work" schedule on orders from my doctors. Although I will miss being with you on most Sundays, I will still be available for you and look forward to those occasions when I will lead worship. I have enjoyed being your local interim pastor and hope to continue until a new pastor is called.

Shalom,
Pastor Bev+



Call Committee Update:

Dear fellow members of St. Paul,

I want to take this opportunity to update you on where we are in the process of Calling a new Pastor. Our first task as your Call Committee was to create our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This is used by congregations of the ELCA who are in the call process seeking an ordained minister, and is intended to provide insight about our congregation, our history, our community, and most importantly our faith commitment. Once approved by the Bishop's office, our MSP is posted on the Synod's website for any candidate seeking a Pastoral position to review. Our MSP was submitted and approved by the Bishop's office in May. Likewise, the Call Committee of Zion Lutheran Church submitted a separate MSP. Similarly, ordained and lay rostered ministers of the ELCA who are seeking a Parish create a Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) as a way to share information about their faith, skills and passion for ministry. Sharing of the MSP and the RMP through the Bishop's Office provides basic introductory information between a church seeking a pastor and an ordained minister seeking to be called to a parish. Since everything is coordinated through the Synod Bishop's office, all ordained ministers reviewing our Ministry Site Profile will also be looking at the MSP for Zion Lutheran Church, and understand that we are in the process of creating a shared ministry.

In response to our MSPs, the Bishop's Office recently submitted to us and Zion, qualified Pastoral candidates for our consideration. Each candidate responded to the ministry site profiles submitted by each church's Call Committees and each candidate has expressed interest in a two point Parish.

We, in conjunction with the Call Committee of Zion Lutheran have begun interviewing these candidates. We have also been advised by Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner, Assistant to the Bishop, to be patient in our deliberation and to make sure we find the right candidate for both our congregations. While I cannot predict, at this time, that any of the current candidates will be the right fit for our congregations, I am encouraged by the quality of the responses from each candidate, and the interest shown by each candidate as we move forward with these interviews. I am also

encouraged by the support we have received from the Bishop's office throughout this process.

As members of this congregation, you can be encouraged to know that, of the responses received so far, there is a genuine interest in serving here at St Paul and Zion as a shared ministry. Though each Call Committee submitted separate, distinct MSPs we share similar priorities, and common goals which is attractive to potential candidates.

We, the members of your Call Committee, Gailyn Matscherz, Jen McMurray, Jaleen Anderson, Marty Goetz, Christian Muthler, and Paul Chmara, and Myself have the best interest of our congregation in our hearts and minds, and we ask for your prayers and support, and patience as we proceed through this process.

Thom Cipro

WILLING WORKERS

This had been a very busy summer for the Willing Workers. We had a successful smothered chicken dinner. Horse Trading Days went well and we had two funeral luncheons.

We were very busy, but we couldn't do it without your help. I have talked to other church groups and they do not have the support we have and they are bigger than us. Thank you so much for donating, working and supporting us. Below is a financial report from the dinners:

	Took In	After Bills
Chicken Dinner	\$1055.00	\$ 818.00
HTD: Food/Drinks	\$2307.00	\$1864.00
Parking	\$ 796.00	\$ 796.00
Funeral Dinner Donations	\$1600.00	\$1500.00

As you can see we are doing well. If you have any suggestions as to what we need to do in Strobel Hall to improve things, please let us know.

We will be having our usual October with Fall Festival on October 13 and 14, Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on October 25. More information on these dinners will be in the October newsletter.

Marty Goetz

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Join us for Rally Day on September 9 after our 9:00 worship service. Rally Day will also be God's Work our Hand's Sunday. More information on this will be in the September 2 bulletin or visit our website at www.splcz.com

The Adult Sunday school class will not start up again until September 23 due to the choir meeting on September 9 and the breakfast on September 16. We will continue to study the I Am book. All our welcome to join us.

Pastor Ralph Kusserow has also volunteered to conduct weekly Bible study sessions beginning in mid September. If you are interested in participating, a survey is in the weekly bulletin or email the office at splcofzelie@gmail.com. This survey is so we can determine the night that best suit's participant schedules:

Rank as 1 = 1st choice, 2 = 2nd choice, 3 = 3rd choice and X = not available that night

Tues. 7-8 pm _____ Wed. 7-8 pm _____
Thurs. 7-8 pm _____



THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We will be inviting members of Zion Lutheran to our fellowship breakfast following the 9:00 joint worship time. Please see Jenifer McMurray if you are able to bring a breakfast item (casseroles, pastries, juice, etc.). We will not have Sunday school on this day.



Choir will resume on Sunday, September 9, with a meeting after the 9:00 worship service. The choir will be in the very capable hands of Nancy Williamson while Bobi-Jean

Alexander is under doctor's orders of vocal rest. New members are always welcomed!

PULLED PORK DINNER

Luke Wilson is selling pulled pork dinner tickets for Troop 457. Event is September 15 from 11 to 6 at 4 Corners Park in Zelienople. Presale tickets are \$9.00 and \$10.00 Walk Up. Contact Luke or Alicia Wilson at 724-712-1013.

BIG KNOB GRANGE FAIR

If you would like to help Friday evening August 31 from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm serving pies for the Big Knob Grange Fair, please see Marty Goetz.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE

Some of our members need someone to drive them to worship, other church events and appointments. Participants must be able to get themselves in and out of a vehicle without relying on the driver assisting them. If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please contact Pastor Bev or Colleen, our church secretary. You may also email the church office at splcofzelie@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer and also when you would be available.

CAMP LUTHERLYN UPCOMING EVENTS

Fathers & Sons Retreat – August 31 to September 1

Quilting & Crafting Retreat – September 4 to 9

Barn Dance – September 15

Survival Skills Saturday Safari – September 22

Wild Women Weekend – October 5 to 7

To learn more about these events visit lutherlyn.com/2018.



Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.

CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS: Baby Landon Pennell, Brad Bartley, Ann Boben, Landon Brewer, Carol Bulger, Nancy Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Nellie Chmara, Kim Christy, Rick Dickerson, Don, Emma [child suffering from viral meningitis], David English, Mark Fox, Bernie Fedorka, Barbara Frantz, Charlotte Glaspey, Brett Greenhill, Andrienne Haegg, Judy Hart, William Loveridge, Bobbie Marchlenski, June Marshall, Nolan Nachriener, Newborn Conrad, Don Nielsen, Terry Oakes, Verna Patscko, Sherry Pengidore family on death of her son, Lois Peeples, Mike Pollack, Jax Ramirez, Erin Roman, Bud Senn, Dawn Swidorsky, Louise Spithaler, John Wherry, Lilly Wolfe, and Ron Zinkham.

Please keep the church updated on your prayer request. All updates and request may be emailed to splcofzelie@gmail.com Also if you would like to be notified of any needed prayers, please email the church office, with your email address.



We grow up when we see our life and our role from God's perspective; when we thank God for the role he has assigned us and begin to see our cup as a gift instead of a cross; when each morning we ask, "God, how can I glorify you today in my given role?"

—Linda Dillow, *Calm My Anxious Heart*

Bless the students



Dear Lord Jesus, bless the children and youth of this nation, returning to their schools and colleges. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, purify their vision and strengthen their wills. Protect them as they learn in the classroom and participate in activities outside it. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Amen.

Something beautiful

"Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God."

—Mother Teresa

2018

SEPTEMBER



ASSISTING MINISTER: Bruce Bratbill
 LECTOR: Bev Broemlich
 Ushers: Muthler Family
 Greeter:
 Bellringer: Tim Broemlich and Jeff Miller
 Office Hours: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00-12:00, www.spitz.com, spitzoffice@gmail.com, 724-452-8832

SUNDAY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

01

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 02 03 04 05 06 07 08

9:00 Worship with Holy Communion



9:00 Worship with Holy Communion
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:00 Choir

7:00 Council Meeting

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 16
 9:00 Joint Worship with Zion Lutheran
 10:00 Breakfast Fellowship in Strobel Hall

9:00 Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 Sunday School

9:00 to 10:00 Depot Day
 Drop-Off
 10:00 October Newsletter info due in office

9:00 Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 Sunday School

Office on Vacation

Office on Vacation

9:00 to 10:00 Depot Day
 Drop-off

Join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM

Sunday School Rally Day – September 9 – 10:00 AM

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118-24

