



# OCTOBER 2020

## Zion's Newsletter

**Pastor John Marboe**

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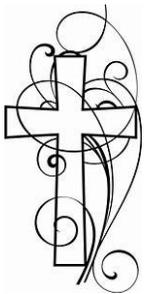
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Facebook page: Zion Lutheran

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**“Called by God’s grace to celebrate and share  
the love of God in our neighborhood”**

**—Zion’s Mission Statement**



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1697 LAFOND AVE**

**ST PAUL MN 55104**

Dear Friends,

Belief in God is the cornerstone of our faith.

Yet it concerns me that its meaning has become trivialized: "I believe in God this way, and not that way." "I believe in the Christian God." "I believe the correct things about God." "I believe God will take me to heaven." "I really believe and others don't." "I believe some people are God-less."



All these statements are common, but they fall far short of the supreme Mystery: God. We are all-too- happy to incorporate "God" into our own ego project. Even "God bless America" (which apparently every politician is required to say) seems to have this quality: God is especially favorable toward US.

But belief in God is never something someone *has*. It is not something that may be possessed. It is not mine, as opposed to yours. It is not yours either. It is not ours and it is not theirs. It is not a commodity. A salesman once said to me, "You and I are salesmen. I sell \_\_\_\_\_, and you sell God." I found no words to respond.

It grieves me that there is a strange religious undercurrent to our politics today. It is polarizing to the extreme. When God is on my/our side, there ends debate. It is war. God does not even need to be invoked. When my/our way is the only way, then there is a twisted religious quality of absolutism, accompanied by religious-like-fervor.

In the Seder ceremony of the Jewish people, there is a legendary story (midrash) recounted. In it after Moses leads the Israelites through the Red Sea to escape Pharaoh's army, the people turn to see the soldiers and horses drowned in the closing waters. They sing and dance. That's what it says in Exodus. But the midrash legend goes on to say that a voice from heaven comes and rebukes the people for singing and dancing, "for so many of my children have died here today." God is grieving for the soldiers.

God is not yours, nor mine. God's children are not these or those people. Belief in God is the realization that this is true. Belief in God is a confidence that God is love, and whoever loves knows God, while whoever does not love does (yet) not know God (I John 4). Yet even someone who does not know this still belongs to God. For God is love. Belief in God is belief in love. That God is made known in love. That all God's creation is created from love and for love. Love is the nature of all being in essence.

I hear you thinking. What about all the cruelty, injustice, rape, murder, abuse, greed, theft, etc.?

And you are right. We are capable of catastrophic harm. But why? This is a question too deep and complex for a "smart" answer. The best answer is the simple one: love. Love is actually the answer, not to "Why," but to "What is the answer?"

Love does not mean there are no consequences to bad actions. Nor that there should be no judgments. Nor that there should be no protections, rules or laws. But these are not the answer. Important, but not the answer. Love is all that can answer the question. Love in action. Love embodied. In trust that to love is eternal life. Because God is love and that love is universal. Or else we do not know God or believe in God.

Even still, God's love is there for us, and for all.

In Peace,

Pastor John Marboe

# ALL ARE WELCOME AT ZION'S FOOD MINISTRY

Thursday's Zion distribute food for our neighbors and friends.

Please come at 1 p.m. to get your free bag of groceries and a lunch to take home.



1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Zion practices social distancing.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

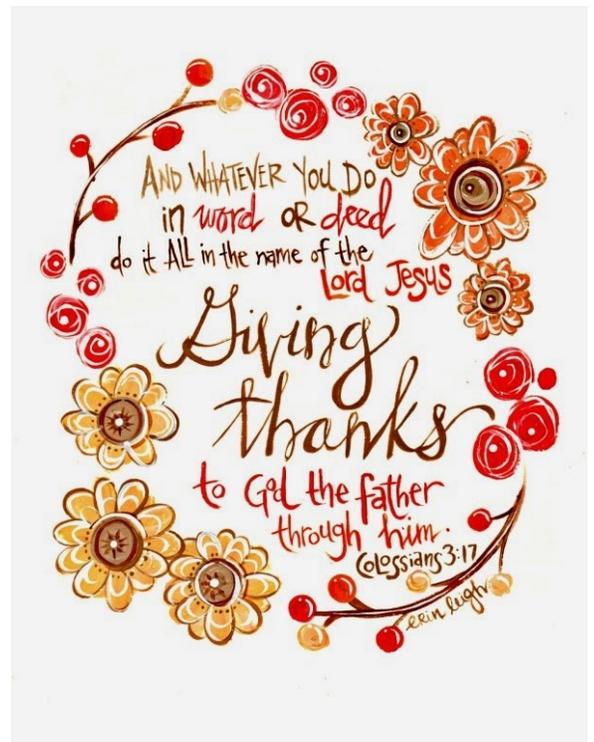
### September financials

Income: \$4,846.50 (includes \$20 e-donation)

Bills paid: \$6,751.57

Please continue to mail or drop off your contributions in our mail slot during this time when you are not coming into the building. All are needed and appreciated. Blessings and health to all members and friends (and their families) of Zion.

Janet Quarn  
Treasurer



# Scripture Readings



*October 12th — Rose Reiling*

*October 20th — Jose Herrera*

*October 23rd — Carol Johnson*

*October 28th — Astrid Mathison*

*October 28th — Connie Osthus*



*Tom & Astrid Mathison*

*October 7th*

**October 4**

**Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

**October 11**

**Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost**

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

**October 18**

**Twenty First Sunday of Pentecost**

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

**October 25**

**Twenty Second Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

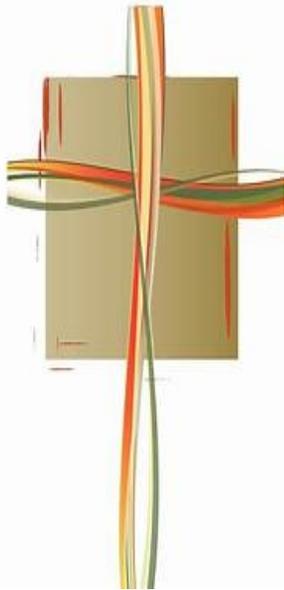
**“Called by God’s grace to celebrate  
and share the love of God in our neighborhood”**

# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



October Sunday services will continue via Zoom.

In person attendance is now allowed up to 25% capacity, or about 50 people for our sanctuary.



All recommended precautions will be followed:

**Please wear masks (masks are available free)**  
**10 ft. social distance**  
**(recommended for singing)**

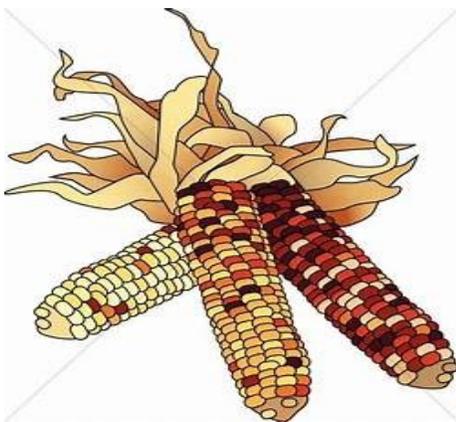
**No touching during peace**

**Careful communion**

**Sanitizer available**

Any with health concerns please stay home and join us remotely as able.

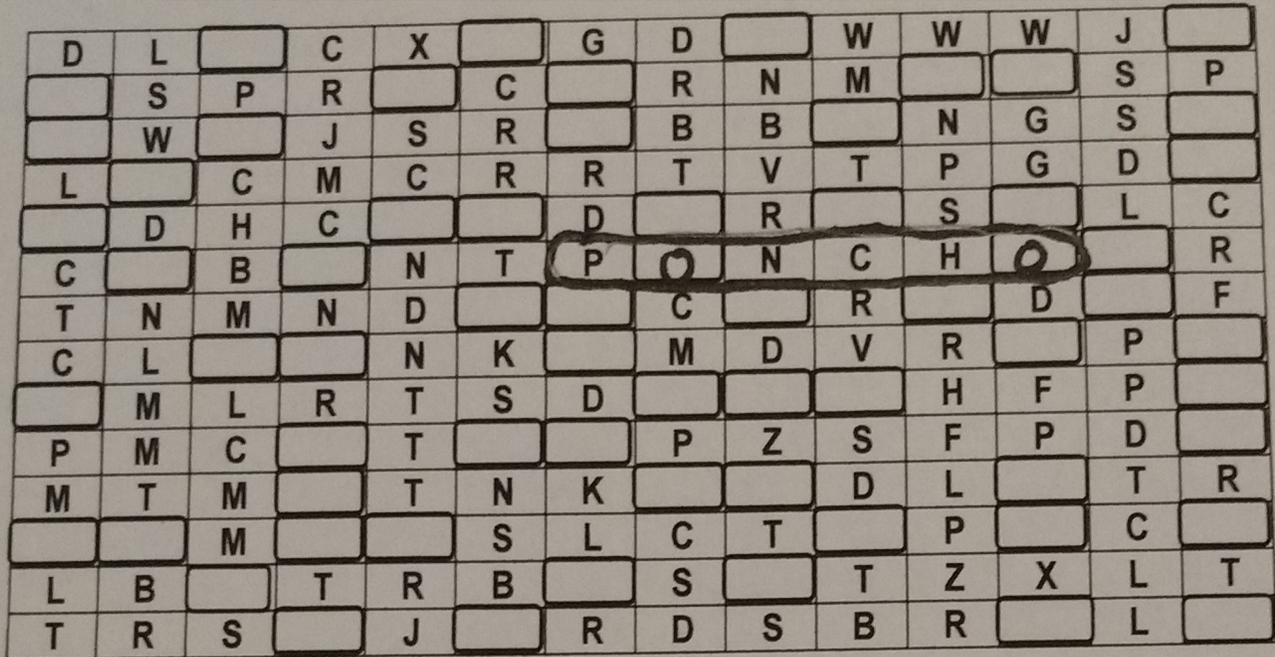
***Mark your calendars for our Sunday morning service, October 4th when Bishop Patricia Lull will join us by Zoom, to speak in honor of Zion's 130<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation.***



**Church council meeting  
will be via Zoom at  
6 pm on October 20th**

# MISSING VOWELS

## WORD SEARCH



ACORN  
ADEPT  
AJAR  
APPLAUD  
ASCEND  
BLAZER  
BUCKET  
CASHIER  
CLOSURE  
COUPE  
CUSTOM  
DEFECT  
DETOUR

DIALECT  
DISTILL  
EMOTE  
EPOCH  
EXCEL  
FEDORA  
GOURD  
IMPACT  
IRATE  
IRONIC  
LIMIT  
MANNER  
PEAL

POETIC  
~~PONCHO~~  
RILE  
RUBBING  
SCAPE  
SEEM  
SKATER  
SOMETIME  
STENO  
VIEW  
WEDGE  
WIDEN  
ZITI

Before you can loop the words, you must first fill in the circles in the diagram with the missing vowels A, E, I, O, and U.

PONCHO has been done for you.

