

The Zion Flame

October 2021



Zion Lutheran Church
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Pastor Becky Langholz

Dear ones in Christ,

There is some big news in the Langholz household. We got a puppy! "Rusty" is his name, and he is a cockapoo (a cross between a cocker spaniel and poodle). He was born on July 31st, and he will eventually grow to be 12-15lbs. My sons Alec (10) and Rory (8) are over the moon with excitement, as you can imagine. Joel and I are also excited but a bit daunted as we consider the work that will be involved. "You'll probably have some moments where you wonder, "What did we just do?" the breeder told me, "But don't worry. You will be great." I'm clinging to her encouragement! I hope that you all can meet Rusty soon.

The only pet I had as a child was a goldfish. "Jonathan" the goldfish lived longer than most, but he didn't survive being overfed by my younger brother one day. My dad is highly allergic to cats, and, when it came to a dog, my mom always said that she had four children and that was enough! My parents did end up getting a dog the month that my youngest brother graduated from high school to ease the shock of the empty nest. All this to say that working with animals is new territory for me. I've been reading books and watching videos. I bought the list of supplies the breeder suggested. I think I am prepared. Reality, of course, especially with it comes to other living creatures and new relationships, is always messier, more complicated but also more beautiful than you can plan and prepare.



One of the books I have been reading is called the Art of Raising a Puppy, and it is written by a group of monks from the New Skete Monastery in Cambridge, NY. For many years, these monks have bred and raised German Shepherds as a service to the community and to earn an income for the monastery. They are skilled trainers and write eloquently about the spirituality of caring for animals, especially those like dogs that have grown to be such good companions for humans. They experience communion with God through communion with some of God's amazing creatures. I imagine some of you can say the same!

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis, another man of faith who saw God in all things. He is known as the patron saint of animals, and often-times animal blessings accompany his feast day. It is a good time of the year to get a puppy. I'm looking forward to new growth and learning with little Rusty, and I think it will be a positive experience for our whole family.

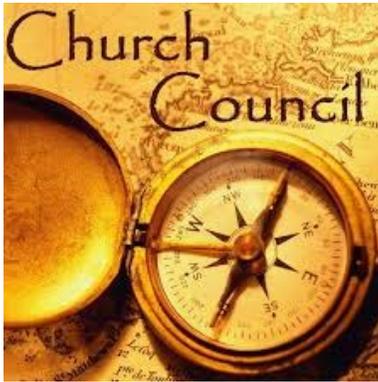
A deeper sense of understanding and compassion for any form of life expands our interconnection to all life.

Beauty, wonder and joy abound! Thanks be to God.

See you on Sunday,

Pr. Becky

Pr. Becky is regularly in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm.
She can also be reached by cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or by email: pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org



Pr. Becky is in the church office Mondays & Thursdays from 9am-12pm. She is also working from home and can be reached on her cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or via email at pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org Fridays are her day off; only emergency or prayer chain calls/texts on Fridays, please.

The Church Council will meet on Weds. October 13th at 4:30pm this month. Agenda items and reports for the meeting will be due by Weds. October 6th.

Financial Information (through August 2021):

General Fund Balance: \$33,190.68

Special Fund Balance: \$7,325.96

Thrivent Mutual Fund Balance: \$22,938.98

For the year 2021:

Receipts: \$63,309.32

Expenses: \$52,207.46

Net: \$11,101.86



We gather to clean the church on the first Saturday of the month, October 2nd at 9am.

Cleaning and maintaining our church are volunteer efforts, and many hands make light the work. Come on out for an hour of vacuuming, dusting and generally sprucing up our beloved church building. Many thanks.

As the COVID landscape keeps shifting, we ask folks to please abide by State and County guidelines for masking and other safety protocols while at church events. We pray to God for health, patience and compassion as the pandemic continues, and we trust in the power of God to see us through hard times.

Sadly, due to COVID, the Church Council made the decision to cancel this year's Fall Festival meal on November 7th. We look forward to a great feast in 2022! The Fall Festival celebrates Zion's founding in November of 1903. That was 118 years ago! **We'll be collecting extra food and cash donations for local food banks that day, so that our neighbors in need might have enough to eat.**

Stewardship

is heart work



A stewardship letter will be coming your way the week of October 17th. God is so good and has blessed us richly! Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2022. We ask that pledge cards be returned in worship on November 7th (or they can be mailed to the church). Did you know you can now give to Zion online? You can even set up automatic withdrawals. Check out our church website:

www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org and the "Give" tab for more information.



From the Bishop

The Spirit October 2021

At first glance, it does not seem as though Teresa of Avila, noted Spanish Roman Catholic saint from the sixteenth century, would have much to say about today's world. You see, she is well known for her mysticism, her ecstatic prayers, several quotes that she might or might not have said, and her reforms in the church. All of these things are interesting – but what do they have to do with the 21st century and what is happening in the world today? In the last few days, though, I have been thinking about what she writes at the beginning of her work, *The Interior Castle*. At the beginning of this book Teresa admits that she is tired. On the first page she writes, "I'm writing this book under obedience and I'm already finding it hard. God hasn't given me any desire for this work, and my head is so full of noise I can barely compose a letter about the most ordinary business, much less a book about prayer." I am so thankful for Teresa stating it bluntly. Teresa is unsure if she'll succeed, she is not sure she has it in her to do what she is being asked to do, she is nervous and distracted. In other words, St. Teresa sounds a lot like all of us – especially when we are being asked to do something that is different or hard or difficult.

Truthfully, it can be daunting as we continue to navigate this pandemic, as we continue to navigate the changes of the world and the changing church, as we strive to live into what God is calling us to do. It is difficult, as Teresa fully expresses, to push past our fear or our unease or our malaise to do what God is calling us to do. It is pretty impossible to do a new thing without God's help and guidance. And so, as I reflect on Teresa's difficulties, our difficulties, I am also drawn to scripture – specifically Isaiah 43. In the first part of Isaiah 43 we read:

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The prophet writes that God created us, God formed us. We have no need for fear because God knows each of our names. God calls each of us. We are God's. No matter the circumstance, no matter the trial, no matter the fire. This is what Teresa understood and it is what we cling to when we struggle and when we wonder if we can go on. I invite you to hold Isaiah 43:1-3 closely as we hear these words from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

As we hold close the promise that God creates us, forms us, names us, calls us, and holds us, only then can we hear the promise in these words that a new thing, a new day is coming. That God will make a way. May we hold close the words of St. Teresa and the prophet Isaiah. May you feel God's love surrounding you when all seems overwhelming. And may you rise in the strength of the Lord knowing that God's love surrounds you and fills you – and a way is being made as we all go forward together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



Your prayers make a difference! If you have a person or situation that needs prayer, please call Pr. Becky and let her know. She can alert Zion's prayer chain and/or add the item to our congregational list.



Our prayers as a congregation continue:

- ◆ For all experiencing sickness, difficulty or grief, especially Bethany, Mark, Nina, Donna, Julie, Carol, Jim, Amy and her family.
- ◆ For all experiencing cancer especially Tammy, Brayden, Maye and Kinsley.
- ◆ For the loved ones of Pr. Jeremy Fuerst, of Central Lutheran, Everett, who died mountain climbing in Colorado on September 9th.
- ◆ St. John's Lutheran Church in Bellingham suffered a fire on the morning of September 10th. We pray for the former members of St. John's as well as for the Ukrainian Evangelical Church, who now owns the building and worships there.
- ◆ For Trinity Lutheran Church in Point Roberts, whose historic sanctuary is in danger of collapse.
- ◆ For these ministries: Lutino Adunu in Gulu, Uganda, Sol de Justicia church in Grecia, Costa Rica, Hogar Irekani in Michoacán, México, African S.M.I.L.E in Tanzania, Family Promise of Whatcom County and World Relief of Whatcom County.
- ◆ For health, strength and endurance for all, especially the most vulnerable, as the pandemic continues.

October Birthdays



- 4 Merwyn Bay
- 5 Hope Jose Day
- 10 Leonard Sund
- 15 Eugenia Guckert & Annie Tennyson
- 18 Kristi Johnson
- 19 Lisa Lockwood
- 20 Melanie Shearer & David Halme
- 21 Harry Shearer
- 28 Wyburn Bannerman

"May the Lord bless and keep you another year through!"

We'll enjoy a cake to celebrate all these October birthdays on the last Sunday of the month, the 31st.



October Outreach and Missions



We continue to collect coats and other warm items for the Interfaith Coalition’s annual Winter Coat Drive through Sunday, October 10th. Leave your donations in the church narthex. These items will be distributed to families in need in the northern part of our county.



We are collecting bottled water for a program through the Interfaith Coalition called CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together). Since 1999, CAST volunteers have been offering free food, drink and hygiene supplies to anyone who needs them in downtown Bellingham three nights a week. Zion would like to help keep up the program’s bottled water supply and is requesting your donations. This will be an on-going collection. Direct questions to Rosemary Meyers. Don’t forget—we also have on-going collections for food and hygiene and household supplies in the baskets in the narthex.

“A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed”

You’re invited to [celebrate World Food Day](#) with “A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed,” featuring **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** and guidebook author and travel TV host **Rick Steves**. This online benefit for ELCA World Hunger will take place on **Thursday, Oct. 14**, at 7:30 p.m. Central time. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir.



As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. [Register today.](#)



Prayer of St. Francis (feast day on October 4th)

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Connect with Zion online: Resources for worship and reflection are available on our church [YouTube channel](#). We also live-stream the worship service there each Sunday at 10am.

Reformation Sunday is October 31st. This day marks the beginning of Martin Luther’s Church reform movement 500 years ago. We continue in this legacy of relying on the grace of God alone and trust that, by the Spirit’s power, we are “always being made new.”

The 8:45am Sunday school class on the 31st will focus on Reformation History.

Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Since 1903

The beloved, forgiven people of God.

Called to spread the Good News so as to build up the body of Christ.

Gifted to share the healing love of Jesus Christ with our hurting world.

Empowered by the Spirit to be a caring country congregation for ministry to one another and the larger community.



Zion’s Relational Covenant

In our life together, we will...

Give thanks to God for the gift of our church and each other. Honor and respect our diverse opinions, perspectives and work-styles. Take responsibility for our own feelings and deal with issues directly. Ask clarifying questions and avoid making assumptions. Speak up honestly in the proper time and place. Make decisions in a transparent manner. Support decisions made by the group. Pray for unity in our congregation.





The Monday Bible Study will meet all the Mondays in October. We meet from 12-1:30pm. We are looking at various prayers in the Bible. Bring your Bible and a desire to explore God's word with others!

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Monday, October 11th at 2pm at Woods Coffee in Ferndale. Your ideas and helping hands are welcome. Speak to Rosemary Meyers or Pr. Becky for more information.

Sunday 8:45am Adult Studies for October

October 3rd: Disciple Thomas with Craig Johnson

October 10th: Disciple Thomas with Craig Johnson

October 17th: Spirituality of Stewardship with Pr. Becky

October 24th: Stewardship (details TBD)

October 31st: Reformation History, watching Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation



Save the date for Wednesday, October 27th at 6pm. The Whatcom Cluster of ELCA Churches (of which Zion is a part) will host an information session with Steven Shetterly of World Relief, a non-profit organization working to bring refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere to Whatcom County. The organization hopes to resettle 75 refugees in Whatcom County in 2022. This will be an online Zoom event. Tune in to learn more and learn how we can support this effort.



Dear Zion Family:

As we continue to support the mission work of Lutino Adunu – Children Loved, in Northern Uganda, our sister, Shilla, and I have created an emergency fund for children with critical or urgent needs. “The Heart to Heart for Children Project” will support needs as they arise. Currently our goal is to raise \$700.00 for four little ones under the age of four. All four children have recently been orphaned.

3-year-old Aaron's mother died 11 hours after giving birth to his twin sisters, Stella and Shilla. Adding to this family's tragedy, 2 months later, young Aaron fell into a fire suffering head burns too severe to post pictures of on this site. He did not receive proper medical treatment at that time. To date Aaron has endured three major skin graft surgeries, multiple infections, and daily hospital trips for dressing changes. Aaron lives with an aunt near the hospital. Stella and Shilla have temporarily been placed into foster care. Permanent foster placement will be required after one year.



The fourth child, infant Sarah, was orphaned at the age of 2 weeks. Her greatest need is food. Since December 2020, Lutino Adunu has been supporting these children with their most basic needs for survival and medical/surgical expenses.

Locally, we are offering hand-made earrings plus Ugandan jewelry as fundraisers for this project. Contact Dawn-Marie for viewing or purchase/view collections online at these two Facebook sites:

Earrings: Handmade by Lori-Kay Blake (Ferndale) and Dawn-Marie

The Heart to Heart for Children Project: <https://www.facebook.com/heart2heart4childrenproject>

Paper bead jewelry handmade by woman in Gulu:

The Heart to Heart for Children Fundraiser <https://www.facebook.com/Heart2Heart4ChildrenFundraiser>

Please shop our Photo Galleries and consider these handmade treasures for upcoming holiday gift giving. Every dollar you donate will help these four innocent souls. Thank you for being their blessing.

Additional LA updates: In early September, Shilla served her local Nwoya district as their regional representative at the United Nations assembly in Entebbe, Uganda. This is an extraordinary achievement! Community authorities now recognize Shilla as a peacekeeping and influential leader with great potential to make positive and lasting changes in her country.

During her time living here, Shilla was also the recipient of a \$20,000 International Peace Scholarship offered by the Philanthropic Educational Organization, P.E.O. This award allowed her to earn her master's degree, here in the U.S., in Sustainable Development and return to Gulu to put it to great use.

The P.E.O. organization recently invited Shilla to be a guest speaker addressing first-year Cottey College students. The virtual event, “**Women Who Wow,**” will be held on October 20, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. and open to the public to virtually attend. I hope to organize a group viewing at Zion. Details forthcoming.

Thank you for your prayers and commitment to Lutino Adunu,

Your sister in Christ,

Dawn-Marie

Lutino Adunu Co-founder

