

**Welcome!**



*Declare how much  
God has done  
for you*

LUKE 8:39

## ***Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church***

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

(570) 668-2180 - Email: [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

*Our Mission: Zion proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community. We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers*

# The Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 19, 2022 ~ 9:00 am

## The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

*This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."*

*\*Congregation please stand*

### The Pre-service Music

## ~ The Gathering ~

### \* The Thanksgiving for Baptism

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHOSE STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.  
**Amen.**

LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

MERCIFUL GOD,

**we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS! GOD DOES NOT DEAL WITH US ACCORDING TO OUR SINS BUT DELIGHTS IN GRANTING PARDON AND MERCY. IN THE NAME OF ✚ JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. YOU ARE FREE TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES.

**Amen.**

### \* The Gathering Hymn

*"This is My Father's World"*

No.554

### \* The Greeting

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

**And also with you.**

### \* The Kyrie Eleison *(Now the Feast)*

IN PEACE, IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

FOR THE REIGN OF GOD, AND FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FOR THE UNITY OF ALL, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

FOR YOUR PEOPLE HERE, WHO HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU PRAISE, FOR THE STRENGTH TO LIVE YOUR WORD, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

HELP, SAVE, AND DEFEND US, O GOD.

**Amen.**

\* **The Hymn of Praise** *(Now the Feast)*

*(Refrain)* **Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the  
God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory for evermore!**

NOW IS THE FEAST OF THE LAMB ONCE SLAIN, WHOSE BLOOD HAS FREED  
AND UNITED US TO BE ONE GREAT PEOPLE OF GOD. *(Refrain)*

POWER AND RICHES, WISDOM AND MIGHT,  
ALL HONOR AND GLORY TO CHRIST FOR EVER. *(Refrain)*

FOR GOD HAS COME TO DWELL WITH US TO MAKE US PEOPLE OF GOD;  
TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. *(Refrain)*

\* **The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Sung)* **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

**O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free  
from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

~The Word~

**The First Lesson** Isaiah 65:1-9

*The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful..*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** 22:19-28 Tune "*As With Gladness Men of Old*" No.82

**O LORD, DON'T STAY AWAY FROM ME! COME QUICKLY TO MY RESCUE!**

**I will praise you, Lord my God, With the celebrating throng.**

"HE DOES NOT NEGLECT THE POOR OR IGNORE THEIR SUFFERING. HE DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THEM, BUT ANSWERS WHEN THEY CALL FOR HELP."

**I will praise you, Lord my God, Join the grateful in their song.**

THE POOR WILL EAT AS MUCH AS THEY WANT; THOSE WHO COME TO THE LORD WILL PRAISE HIM. MAY THEY PROSPER FOREVER

**Let all nations join to sing, Praises to their gracious King!**

**The Second Lesson** Galatians 3:23-29

*For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

\* **The Gospel Acclamation** (*Alleluia Verse Now the Feast*)  
**Alleluia, Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

\* **The Holy Gospel** Proverbs 22:6

*Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old, they will not depart from it.*

*(Before the Gospel)*

A READING FROM PROVERBS:

*(spoken)* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the Gospel)*

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

*(spoken)* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*Pastor Cindy White*

\* **The Hymn of the Day**      *“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”*

No. 506

\* **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* **The Prayers of Intercession**

UNITED IN CHRIST AND GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE CREATION, AND ALL IN NEED.

*A brief silence.*

HOLY GOD, YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO SEEK YOU. EQUIP YOUR CHURCH WITH EVANGELISTS WHO REVEAL THE CONTINUOUS CALL OF YOUR OUTSTRETCHED HANDS AND YOUR PROMISES OF A HOME IN YOU. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THE EARTH. RESTORE PLACES WHERE LAND, AIR, AND WATERWAYS HAVE BEEN HARMED. GUIDE US TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SOURCES OF ENERGY AND FOOD PRODUCTION THAT DO NOT DESTROY THE EARTH. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO ARE MARGINALIZED OR CAST OUT. ON THIS JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE, GUIDE US CONTINUALLY TOWARD THE END OF OPPRESSION IN ALL ITS FORMS, ESPECIALLY WHITE SUPREMACY. BRING TRUE FREEDOM AND HUMAN FLOURISHING TO ALL YOUR BELOVED CHILDREN. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO SUFFER. COME TO THE AID OF ALL WHO ARE HOMELESS, NAKED, HUNGRY, AND SICK ESPECIALLY CINDY, ROBERT, GEORGE, PAT,

DEREK, ELIZABETH, MARY, CHRIS, NANCY, RALPH, JOSEPH, EVA, JOHN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. BRING PEACE TO ANY EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESS, THAT THEY CAN CLEARLY RECOGNIZE YOUR LOVING PRESENCE. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO CELEBRATE AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE ON THIS FATHER'S DAY. NURTURE MUTUAL LOVE AND TENDER CARE IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS. COMFORT THOSE FOR WHOM THIS DAY BRINGS SADNESS OR LONGING. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED WHOSE LIVES PROCLAIMED ALL YOU HAD DONE FOR THEM. AT THE LAST, UNITE US WITH THEM AS WE MAKE OUR HOME IN YOU. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

GOD OF EVERY TIME AND PLACE, IN JESUS' NAME AND FILLED WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, WE ENTRUST THESE SPOKEN PRAYERS AND THOSE IN OUR HEARTS INTO YOUR HOLY KEEPING.

**Amen.**

**\* The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

**And also with you.**

~The Meal~

**The Offering and Offertory**

*Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit [ziontamaqua.com](http://ziontamaqua.com) for our myEoffering option.*

**\* The Offertory Procession "As the Grains of Wheat"**

*(Refrain)* **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the  
ends of earth be gathered into one in you.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. (Refrain)**

**\* The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF ABUNDANCE: YOU HAVE SET BEFORE US A PLENTIFUL HARVEST. AS WE FEAST ON YOUR GOODNESS, STRENGTHEN US TO LABOR IN YOUR FIELD, AND EQUIP US TO BEAR FRUIT FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**Amen.**

**The Anthem**

**"God Will Make a Way" – arr. Hughes**

**\* The Great Thanksgiving**

**\* The Preface and Sanctus**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU  
(Sung) **And also with you.**  
LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

IT IS OUR DUTY.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (*Now the Feast*)

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

**\* The Eucharistic Prayer** (*Now the Feast*)

YOU ARE INDEED HOLY, ...WE PRAY FOR HIS COMING AGAIN EVEN AS WE CRY.

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS.

(Sung) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

SEND NOW, WE PRAY, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THAT ALL OF YOUR PROMISES MAY COME TO US AND YOUR WHOLE CREATION.

AMEN. COME, HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN COME, HOLY SPIRIT.

(Sung) **Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THIS WE PRAY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR FRIEND.

(Sung) **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\* The Lord's Prayer**

MAKE US BOLD, O MERCIFUL GOD, TO ADDRESS YOU AS OUR ABBA AS WE PRAY:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**\* The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God”** (*Now the Feast*)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**The Distribution**

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.*

**\* The Post-Communion Blessing**

MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THE GIFTS OF HIS BODY AND BLOOD STRENGTHEN, KEEP AND UNITE, NOW AND FOREVER.

**Amen.**

**\* The Post-Communion Canticle** *(Now the Feast)*

**Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!**

**Raising high the weak and lowly; Thanks be to you forever!**

**From of old you loved and sought us! Thanks be to you forever!**

**Truth and justice you have taught us; Thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,**

**Rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!**

**Raising high the weak and lowly; Thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!**

**\* The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY, LIFE-GIVING GOD, THROUGH THIS MEAL YOU HAVE BANDAGED OUR WOUNDS AND FED US WITH YOUR MERCY. NOW SEND US FORTH TO LIVE FOR OTHERS, BOTH FRIEND AND STRANGER, THAT ALL MAY COME TO KNOW YOUR LOVE. THIS WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**Amen.**

**~The Sending~**

**\* The Blessing**

MAY GOD BLESS US AND KEEP US. MAY GOD'S FACE SHINE ON US AND BE GRACIOUS TO US. MAY GOD LOOK ON US WITH FAVOR AND GIVE US PEACE.

***(Sung)* Amen.**

**\* The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* The Sending Hymn**

***“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”***

No.559

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Liturgical material reprinted from: SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24607. License sponsored July 2021 to July 2022 by Mrs. James A. Valentine; Bill and Marianne Jones; In honor and memory of loved ones by Jon and Deb Davies and family; In honor of loved ones by Robert Fisher ONELICENSE #A-708066 *(for sung portions of the liturgy not covered by the Augsburg Fortress License)* sponsored in 2021 by Art and Sharon Connely, in loving memory of Arthur and Betty Connely

**First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9** - <sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that did not call on my name. <sup>2</sup>I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; <sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; <sup>4</sup>who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine’s flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; <sup>5</sup>who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.” These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. <sup>6</sup>See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps <sup>7</sup>their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. <sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, “Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,” so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy them all. <sup>9</sup>I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

**Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29** - <sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

**Gospel: Proverbs 22:6** - Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old, they will not depart from it.

**June 26, 2022 readings are:**

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalms 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*June 18-19, 2022*

*\*If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across the hall from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors please sign our guest book. Thank you.*

## **GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**THE ALTAR CANDLES** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my dad, Dan Zeigler and all fathers of the congregation by Gerry Zeigler

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of our fathers, Harry and Augustus by George and Mary Ruth Taylor

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of our 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

**FATHER'S DAY GIFTS** are given to the Glory of God

In loving memory of his father, Rocker Fisher and her father, Warren Schaeffer by Robert Fisher

*Please remember the following in your prayers: Cindy Collura, Robert Dolbin, George Bozosi, Pat Brown, Derek Hill, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Mary Richards, Mrs. Chris Miller, Nancy Betz, Ralph Derr, Joseph Harvilla, Eva (Mitzi) Koomar, John Lattanzi, and all our members who are homebound.*

## **Upcoming Events**

**June 23** – Strawberry Social

**July 8** – Blessings Sale

**July 20** – Ice Cream Social

**July 28** – Hoagie Sale

## **Welcome!!**

Parish office phone and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

Parish website is [www.ziontamaqua.com](http://www.ziontamaqua.com)

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Zion's 2022 Church Council officers:** Chris Henritz, President, Michael Haspe, Vice-President, Tiffany Warden, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Judy Brennan, Sam Caley, Arlene Derr, Ernie Henritz, Glenn Fritzing, Brian Lawfer, Steve Ristila and Mary Ruth Taylor; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

# This Week in Our Church

## SUNDAY, June 19, 2022, Father's Day

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament/ Joyful Noise  
10:00 Congregational Life Committee Pretzel Sale/  
Downtown Tamaqua

## MONDAY

6:30 Council

## TUESDAY

9:30 Work Session

## WEDNESDAY

Social Prep  
6:00 NA Meeting

## THURSDAY

9:30 Work Session  
4:00 Strawberry Social

## SATURDAY

5:30 Saturday Evening Worship

## NEXT SUNDAY, June 26, 2022

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

The  
Congregational  
Life Committee  
will be selling  
pretzels at the  
Tamaqua  
Summerfest on  
June 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Hope to see you  
there!

### **Supporting Zion's Ministries**

Contributions received for 6/12/22:

Received to meet \$4,049.75 weekly budget:	\$2,384.69
Received from Thrift Store	\$0.00
Received for Endowment:	\$0.00
Received for Capital Campaign:	\$384.00

Contributions YTD to meet operating budget expenses: \$121,443.94

Received from offering/gifts/memorials:	\$65,339.31
Received from Thrift Store	\$3,664.54
Received from Endowment:	\$44,000.00
Received from Culinary:	\$5,145.00
Received from Schlitzer Fund	\$3,295.09

Budget operating expenses YTD: \$123,115.57

Budget status YTD: \$(1,671.63)

*Thank you for your gifts.*

*Your offerings allow us to share the word of God and the love of  
Jesus with our congregation and our community.*

***GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD***

***SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of John D. Matteo by Judy & Sonia

***CURRENT FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of our dad's, Carl W. Koch and Leo Dietrich, on Father's Day by John & Carol Dietrich

In honor of our son, Jeff Springer, on his June 26th birthday Love, John, Carol Dietrich & family

In loving memory of her father, Jasper Collura, on Father's Day by Ann Marie and David Hadesty and family

***HELPING HAND FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of the June 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles "Chunky" Schissler by Marlene & Barry McLaughlin

***SENIOR CHOIR FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the *Glory of God* and

For Senior Choir with Special Thanks to Sandy Mehalko for her music ministry from Gerry Zeigler

***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of dad, Eugene Springer on Father's Day by the Sneddon family

In honor of Brian, Matt and James Sneddon on Father's Day by Lisa Sneddon

June's Joyful Noise offering (collected the third weekend of the month) supports the Helping Hands Ministry which helps a family or a single person with utility assistance. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale** is on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books and general household items. Clearance Prices – Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Shoppers must wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Summer Office Hours – Monday & Wednesday 12:00 – 5:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday & Friday – Closed, If you need assistance, please call and leave a message. Please note that office hours are flexible due to vacations and leave so please call ahead to ensure that someone will be in the office.



***We would like to wish all fathers and father figures joining with us today a Happy Father's Day!*** A gift is available for each of our fathers in the basket located in the gathering room. Please pick *one* gift *per* father, so that all of our dads may enjoy receiving a gift.



**Mark your calendar!** Zion's Strawberry Social will be held Thursday, June 23, 2022 from 4:00 until 6:30 pm or sell-out! There will be delicious Strawberry shortcake for \$6.00 which includes cake and ice cream topped with strawberries. Other foods available for purchase include hot dogs, turkey BBQ, chicken fingers, Coney Island burgers, pierogies, meatball hoagies, strawberry salad, macaroni salad, and potato salad. **We are looking for donations of cakes, baked goods, and other foods to sell; please see a member of the culinary crew to let us know if you can donate.**

*How to Live a Meaningful Life* -Many Americans live with two opposite feelings. On one hand, they want to experience meaning and purpose in their lives. On the other hand, they often feel that they are running on empty.

In his classic novel, *Les Miserables*, Victor Hugo tells us how to eliminate that second feeling. The bishop befriends Jean Valjean and gives him lodging. Valjean repays that kindness by stealing the bishop's valuable candlesticks. After the bishop reports the theft, the police magistrate questions Valjean in the bishop's presence. As the interrogation progresses, Valjean seems headed for jail. At that point, the bishop unexpectedly retracts his charges and offers a plausible reason for why the candlesticks are missing.

Jean Valjean is amazed. When he and the bishop are alone, he says, "Why did you do that? You know I am guilty." The bishop replies, "Life is for giving."

Why do churches receive an offering in their worship services? Some people say, "Because the church needs the money." That is only part of the answer. Even if a wealthy benefactor fully underwrote our congregation's expenses, we would still need to provide people with the opportunity to give an offering in our worship services. Weekly giving teaches us—and reminds us because we keep forgetting—that life without unselfish giving is life without meaning and purpose.

Victor Hugo is right. Life is for giving.