

## *The Zion Connection*

Without connecting with one another for “The Common Good” in a neighborly way, we are nothing more than a clanging gong.

Upon graduating from Eden Theological Seminary, I have had the fortune of being in communication with Dr. Walter Brueggemann for fifty-three years, the country’s greatest scholar in the Old Testament. Walter was my Old Testament professor in seminary, and we continue to be the best of friends today.

As a youngster at Zion, I use to attend the Lenten services when our four churches, in LaSalle and Peru met together for worship. One of the speakers was Allan Wherli, an Old Testament teacher from Eden. Wherli was one reason I attended Eden.

Last month I sent Brueggemann two dozen Roses honoring his wedding anniversary. In kind Walter sent me three of his latest books, of which there are over one hundred. One of his three books titled, “Journey to the Common Good”, reminded me of Zion.

Our world today is filled with acts of un-kindness; road rage, air rage, syndrome attacks, Asians and Blacks being beaten and so much more. Instead of letting anger and anxiety control your church, you offer an alternative, you work hard for the common good, food drives, prayer box, mission giving, Relay for Life, outreach to Peru, Crop Walks and more. As a society we are in free fall and you offer a safety net.

Doing the common good, being a good neighbor is what we are all called to do. In doing the common good, expect great things to happen and connections to be made. Zion offers a sense of solidarity, community that bring people together at the communion table.

My father, Jerry Siebert was baptized by Rev. Brauns in the old German Evangelical Church. Pastor Brauns died the same year I was born, 1941. Rev. Wierth, on the front porch of the old parsonage March 3, 1955, baptized at the same time my grandmother, Margaret, my mother, Naomi, my brother Terry along with myself. I was baptized just weeks before I was confirmed at Zion.

Rev. Krause came to us from a church in Monee, Il. Rev Wierth came to Zion from a church several miles south of Monee. Krause was a part of my ordination at Zion on June 9, 1968. Church organist was Boehlke, liturgists along with Krause was Splittoesser, Guest speaker was Ulrich from Lakeland College, choir director Heilstedt, ushers were Beiser, Reed, Panizzi, Gillman, Papke, Tobler, Reed. My greeters were Hammerichs, Ruth and George, Ruth was my mother's sister, and a full congregation. Acolytes were Heilstedt and Hoelle.

Years later I served the same church that Krause served in Monee. Years before Krause was our pastor, he and Brueggemann were friends working in the same summer church camp. Connection, doing the common good, being good neighbors, continue being a bright light on top of the hill.

KEEP THE CONNECTIONS GOING. Do good and connections are made. Once we link our own good with the good of others community happens.

A shout goes out to Jerry Koehler who has been a good neighbor to me for many years.

The Rev. Dennis L. Siebert...ever so grateful to Zion