

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER

June 2020

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA ★ LAKE CRYSTAL, MN ★ 507-726-2849 ★ WWW.ZIONLUTHLAKECRYSTAL.ORG

Zion's Congregation Council has approved the following physical-distancing guidelines to allow in-person activities to resume for small groups:

- No more than 10 people, including leaders, meeting in the building at any time.
- Only certain places of the building should be occupied (for cleaning purposes): Narthex, Fellowship Hall, New Bathrooms.
- Groups should contact the church office (507-276-2849) to reserve the building.
- Visitors will register at the front door with sign in and sign out.
- Social distancing must be observed (6+ feet).
- Wearing masked is expected.
- No singing or unison speaking/praying (Lord's Prayer).
- No communal food or beverages, and no use of the kitchen (may bring your own, but no sharing).

Zion groups are asked to observe these guidelines whether meeting in the building or elsewhere.

In-Person worship services continue to be suspended until further notice. While new guidance was recently issued by the Minnesota Health Department and the CDC, it will take some time to develop and implement Zion's "Covid-19 Preparedness Plan."

Worship services will continue to be streamed via Facebook (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.) so that we can gather as a virtual community for prayer, reflection, and praise. Visit Zion's Facebook page or use the links provided on the church website.

As plans come together for gathering once more for in-person worship, Zion leaders will be guided by resources provided by our synod, the ELCA, and our state officials. (Please see page 2 for more details.) If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of our Worship, Music, & Adult Education team (Mackenzie Jones, Mary Goodrich, and Jan Becker), current Zion president (Dan Lewis), or Pastor Andrea.

**SUBSCRIBE TO
ZION NEWS
EMAILS**

visit
www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Sign up today for the new Zion News email list to receive periodic updates about worship and life at Zion Lutheran.

Email will allow us to share news updates more frequently, which is especially important as the present health crisis continues to impact our ministry.

Dear Zion Family –

Waiting is hard. For weeks, now, we've waited for news, waited to make plans, waited to know when it will be safe (or at least safer) to return to the people, places, and activities we love. All this waiting can make us weary and impatient. It's no surprise there's been so much talk of "reopening the church" recently.

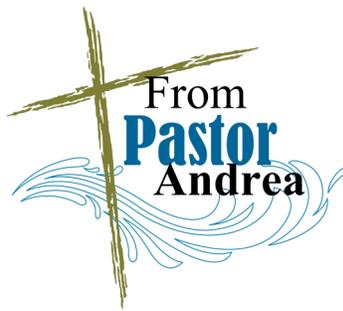
I'm sure I don't need to remind you that our church never closed. You already know the church is not a building – the church is the people! Yes, this congregation has temporarily left the comfortable familiarity of our church's home. We have been sent out into the world to BE the church. A church that worships together through the marvelous (though sometimes awkward) gift of technology. A church that loves our neighbors, choosing to briefly limit our movement so that others may have greater security. A church that shares so that all might have enough, whether it means sharing time, groceries, masks, cards, or an encouraging word. Wherever God's people are found, we find the church.

I know how you yearn to be back in our sanctuary for worship. Me, too! In due time, this congregational will return to our church home.

While our state and federal leaders have said we may gather once again, doing so safely will involve a great deal of careful planning and preparation. That will take time, but it is prudent not to rush back too soon. We should heed the hard lessons learned by congregations around the country who resumed worship on Mother's Day, did everything right, yet had to suspend their gatherings again two weeks later because worship participants now had Covid-19.

One of the major concerns for church leaders and pastors is the risk of virus spread through aerosols (tiny moisture droplets in the air), which are far more difficult to disinfect than high-touch surfaces. No doubt, you have already learned about the larger droplets that typically fall to the ground within 6 feet, hence the guidance around physical distancing. You probably also know that a person infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus can send millions of particles of virus into the air when they sneeze or cough. Less well known is that they also expel droplets simply by breathing, or speaking.* This is a particular concern with those who are asymptomatic.

Long after large droplets fall, the many smaller droplets – the aerosols – can hang in the air for an hour or more. In a confined space, these aerosols and any virus they contain



will disperse to fill the whole room. The longer the person with Covid-19 is in that space, the more aerosol and virus gets dispersed. The longer someone else is in that space, the greater the risk that they will inhale enough of a "viral load" to get infected.

Think about those aerosols, and then picture "normal" worship service prior to the pandemic. A relatively large number of people gathers in a confined space for approximately an hour to pray their way through the liturgy. A good portion of that time is spent singing, which expels more droplets than breathing because we're breathing deeply, then exhaling with sustained force and over a longer period of time.

This concern about aerosols is why – whenever we do gather again – we will refrain from singing for a time. I also anticipate that our first in-person worship gatherings this summer will take place outdoors. These plans are still in development – stay tuned!

As Zion leaders develop our Covid-19 Preparedness Plan, we will be working through a lengthy list of recommendations from church leaders and public health experts. Facility precautions will include things like propping open doors, rearranging furniture, and making supplies of hand sanitizer and masks available. New hygiene precautions will include removing hymnals and "pew pocket" materials from the sanctuary, establishing new procedures for deep-cleaning after worship and other gatherings, and exploring how our HVAC systems might maximize fresh air in the building. We will also need to refrain from serving food or beverages, for now.

In other words, it will be some time before we can return to the comfortable familiarity of pre-pandemic worship. But we will still be the church! We will continue to worship and pray together – just in new ways. We will continue to share fellowship – though it will mean skipping the handshakes. We will continue to love our neighbors and share our resources – for just as there is an abundance of need, there will be an abundance of opportunities to serve.

You are the church! And I am praying for you and your families. As the impacts of this health crisis continue to unfold, may we all be protected in body, mind, and spirit, and filled with the abundant peace, hope, and love of God.

Peace, Pastor Andrea

*A helpful and readable overview of this risk is "The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them" by Professor Erin Bromage of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. See <https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>



Due to the guidelines in place, current activities are postponed until further notice.

Please continue collecting the following:

Pop tabs (donated to McDonalds) and *cancelled stamps* (donated to the American Legion Auxiliary). The ZLCW collects *used cards* for St. Jude's Ranch to be recycled/used to support programs for abused and homeless children. All kinds of cards are welcome – birthday, thank you, thinking of you, Christmas, sympathy, etc. The entire card must be submitted. Please note that the card cannot be used if there is writing on the backside of the front of the card. Due to copyright laws, we cannot accept: Hallmark, American Greeting and Disney. You may place any of the above items in the wooden box located in the narthex.

We continue to support our elementary school through the collection of Box Tops for Education but the process has changed. BTE that are clipped from boxes are still accepted. However, if your purchase doesn't have a coupon, but instead says, 'Scan Your Receipt,' you'll need to do the following:

Download the Box Tops for Education app and set up an account with your email and password. Enter the zip code 56055 to find our school. Select Lake Crystal Wellcome Elementary as the recipi-

ent. Scan the entire receipt with your smart phone camera. (The app allows you to scan as many as necessary.) This must be done within 14 days of purchase and the credit will automatically be tracked to our school.

Our elementary also collects HyVee receipts. HyVee gives a portion of all sales to the schools, up to a specific limit. Receipts must be dated 9-1-2019 through 5-31-2020. Summer receipts are not accepted, but collection will resume when the 2020-2021 school year begins.

**All circle meetings
continue to be on hold
until further notice.**

Congratulations Zion 2020 Spring Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to Ben Gilman and Tasia Jordan, our Zion Spring Scholarship Winners! Ben and Tasia will each receive a \$300 check towards their college education costs.

Zion offers scholarship opportunities twice a year, in spring and fall. You must be in college to apply for this program. High school seniors are not eligible to apply. To learn more, or if you have questions, contact any member of the Scholarship Committee (Donna Roesch, Joyce Johnson, Jamie Christianson and Kristi Grindstaff).



May 20, 2020 Council Recaps

Council Actions and Discussions:

Line of Credit: The Council approved a recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team to pay down the line of credit to a balance of \$0, due to the current positive cash position.

New Drop Box: Building and Grounds Ministry Team will be installing a locked drop box outside next to the front doors, which will assist those trying to get offerings and documents to the church during times the office is closed. We will also be conducting the annual review of the roof with Schwickert's soon.

Covid-19 discussion on Small Group Gatherings: The Council approved guidelines for small groups to meet and use of the church building during the current guidance from the state. The guidelines will be posted at the church and mailed out to the congregation. (See front of this newsletter for the text of these guidelines)

Covid-19 discussion on worship: The consensus continues to be that Zion will follow guidance from MDH and the Synod. Currently working on plans for smaller, possibly outdoor, worship services as things begin to open up.

Need to drop off something at church? The building is now open during our regular office hours. Please use the table provided at the front door to pick up or drop off materials for the Church Office and staff. In order to limit traffic and protect our staff, the Church Office Suite will remain closed to visitors. All visitors in the church building are expected to wear masks or other face coverings.

**Save the dates August 2-6 for
Vacation Bible School!**
Watch for more information as decisions are made as to the best way to make this happen while keeping everyone safe.

****Zion Summer Office Hours: June 1—August 31**

Monday: 8 am—2:30 pm

Tuesday: 8 am—12:00 noon

Wednesday: 8 am—2:30 pm

Thursday: 8 am—2:30 pm

Friday: Office is closed.



Outdoor Church Clean Up

will be held in June. A date has not yet been set, so please watch the bulletin for more information.



Food Drive for Sharing Shelf

Thank you to everyone who donated toward Zion's special food drive on May 4 and 5. Food donated was given to the Lake Crystal Sharing Shelf at the First Baptist Church. Eighteen families donated food and six families donated cash in the amount of \$455. Ron Teigen, Jay Spencer and Rod Isebrand helped collect the food. Thank you to all who contributed!

In addition, Thrivent Financial provided a \$250 Action Team Grant, which will be used to purchase USDA meats in the near future.

Lake Crystal Sharing Shelf needs for June include cereal, fruit, tomatoes and tomato sauce. Food donations can continue to be dropped off at Kevin's IGA.



Sunday Worship
 Zion Lutheran Church
 Lake Crystal, Minnesota
www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Worship Gathering (Facebook)
 9:00 AM

Music by Sheldon Meyer (Facebook)
 9:30 AM

Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
 10:00 AM

For details and links, see the Online Worship Resources for each week posted at www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Social Ministry

Special thanks to everyone who donated a total of \$170 (as of 5/19/20) toward our Caring Coins designees for May. With regular worship suspended, we were unsure of how donations might work and it's heartwarming to know that our congregation continues to support the needs of others in our area. May donations will continue to be collected through May 31, at which time the total dollars will be divided between Partners for Affordable Housing (April's Caring Coins designee, since no April offering was collected), and CADA (May's designee).

Caring Coins will be collected throughout the month of June, with all gifts benefiting Crossroads Campus Ministry. Once again, we'll follow these guidelines:

- Donations for Caring Coins will be accepted during the entire month of June.
- Caring Coins gifts can be given at any time in the month along with your regular offering, but specific gifts to Caring Coins gifts should be noted so that our weekly counters are aware of your request.
- Gifts can be given by check, cash or through regular eGiving options (online or the Give+ app).

Blessings to you for your continued generosity and kindness toward those in need during these challenging times!





KIDS PAGE

ROAD TRIP TREAT!

Make this snack necklace to enjoy during summer travels.



What you need:

- Dental floss
- Sewing needle
- O-shaped cereal
- Raisins
- Popcorn

What you do:

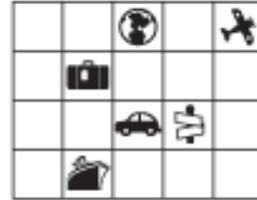
1. Carefully thread a yard of floss through the needle.
2. String a pattern of cereal, raisins and popcorn on the floss until only 4 inches remain on either end. Tie the two ends together.
3. Repeat to make necklaces for your whole family.
4. When you're ready to eat, simply bite off each "bead." Experiment with other non-perishable foods.



Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



Start at the SHIP.

Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N _ _ _

Start at the WORLD.

Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE _ _

Start at the SUITCASE.

Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E _ _ _

Start at the PLANE.

Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W _ _

Start at the CAR.

Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW _ _ _

Start at the SIGN.

Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW _ _ _ _

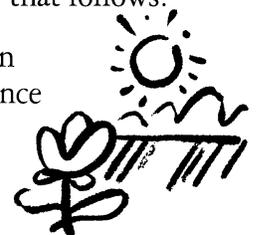
The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng both no_ and for_ vermores. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over you coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Bible Quiz

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- a time to teach, and a time to learn
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- a time to fast, and a time to eat
- a time to work, and a time to rest



Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

NOTE: Because of the present uncertainty about plans for in-person worship in June, we did not develop a full Action Team schedule for the month.

As needs arise for online worship contributors or the resumption of in-person services, Action Team members will be asked for their assistance!



June Team 1 Leaders:

Marsha & Gus Larson (726-2796)

Members:

James Abbott
 Norma Abbott
 Tim & Barb Anderson
 Aaron & Heidi Bartelt
 Kent & Sandra Beecher
 Loren & Linda Beecher
 Chad & Shawna Brandts
 Terry & Vicky Chesney
 Don & Lois Davis
 Frieda Deopere
 Pat & Susan Gengler
 Seth & Leesa Gilman
 John & Kari Gustafson
 Dustin & Angie-Knutson Icks
 Tony & Laurie Jacobs
 Travis & Alisha Jordan
 Arlen & Judy Karau
 Scott Larson
 Dorothy Maurer
 Mike & Jody Maurer
 Sheldon & Holly Meyer
 Chris & April Neal
 Jim & Tracy Nickels
 Tim & Judi Olson
 Ray & Donna Roesch
 Jerome Sandstrom
 Myron & Cheryl Sandstrom
 Norm Sieling
 Scott & Donna Spencer
 Judi Thiesse
 Jennifer Zumwalt



Janet Atkinson
 Kay Carlson
 Lois Davis
 Jim Ellis
 David Gilman
 Sara Halvorson
 Tammy Sweet
 Cindy Jacques
 Blaine Jacques
 Olive Jacques-Dewar
 Patty Lee

Barbara McDonald
 Greg Miller
 Amy Montgomery
 Joyce Roberts
 Donna Roesch
 Ray Roesch
 Barb Sorensen
 Ken Sorensen
 Jon Stordahl
 Andy Teigen
 Howard Ward

Happy Anniversary

Corey & Candice Burnett
 Mark & Sandy Friday
 Mike & Cheri Herbst
 Steve & Val Laborde
 Mike and Jody Maurer
 Greg & Cindy Miller
 Ryan and Danielle Mueller
 Tim & Judy Olson
 Joyce & Jim Roberts
 Myron & Cheryl Sandstrom
 Mike & Heidi Thompson
 Jay & Sheryl Utter
 Howard & Mary Ward
 Scott & Jennifer Winters

Pastoral Acts in May

Funeral: Ginny Midthun (May 14, 2020)

Report for: April 2019

Income	Apr 2020	YTD	Apr 2019	Change (+/-)
Offerings	17,651.10	58,743.78	15,526.07	2,125.03
Non-Benevolence	5,367.00	16,506.00	1,797.00	3,570.00
Building Fund	5,013.39	17,978.34	2,775.00	2,238.39
Memorial Fund	0.00	55.00	25.00	(25.00)
Special Projects	20.00	3,114.69	1,589.51	(1,569.51)
Scholarship Fund	100.00	400.00	240.00	(140.00)
Total	28,151.49	96,797.81	21,952.58	6,198.91

A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.

Ministry Expenses	Apr 2020	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Salaries and Related Costs	12,763.19	11,320.63	1,442.56	41,948.46	44,282.52	(2,334.06)
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	3,669.45	2,691.68	977.77	10,502.11	10,766.72	(264.61)
Education, Mission, Related Costs	0.00	720.84	(720.84)	723.98	2,883.36	(2,159.38)
Supplies	671.36	1,466.66	(795.30)	4,613.33	5,866.64	(1,253.31)
Synod Mission Support	1,152.81	1,800.00	(647.19)	4,997.82	7,200.00	(2,202.18)
Total	18,256.81	17,999.81	257.00	62,785.70	70,999.24	(8,213.54)

"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"

Budget Cashflow	Apr 2020	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Income available	23,018.10	17,999.81	5,018.29	75,249.78	71,999.24	3,250.54
Ministry Expenses	18,256.81	17,999.81	257.00	62,785.70	71,999.24	(9,213.54)
Net (+/-)	4,761.29			12,464.08		

(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)

"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"

Building Fund	Apr 2020	YTD
Income	5,013.39	17,978.34
Payments	(3,891.00)	(15,564.00)
Interest	2.48	8.00
Current Balance	11,163.48	

"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"

Balances	Apr 2020
General Checking	31,509.18
Memorial Fund	3,942.71
Non-Benevolence	6,836.47
Special Projects	5,500.87
Scholarship Savings & CD	5,005.07
Line of Credit	6,558.52
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(356,669.60)
Youth Checking Account	6,274.55

includes SBA PPP Loan



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

May 13, 2020

Dear church,

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am encouraged by your resilience and creativity in our witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am also inspired by your generosity. Through the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund and our Daily Bread grants, we are providing critical support to struggling yet vital ministries across this church. Through Lutheran Disaster Response International we have intensified our accompaniment of global partners. We are church together.

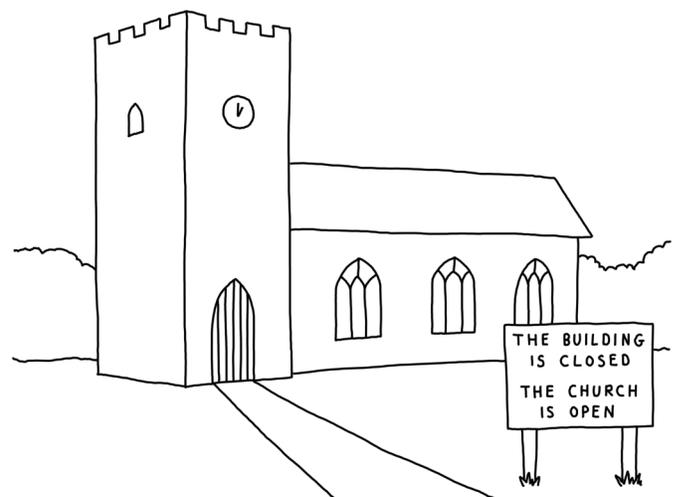
This is a trying time for us all. At the same time, we know that a disproportionate burden of illness, death, discrimination and harassment falls on communities of color. This pandemic has exacerbated racism and racial inequities deeply entrenched in society and across the church. We see this in the growing anti-Asian racism and the disproportionate number of deaths in black, American Indian and Latinx communities. I have been learning from the leaders of the ELCA's ethnic associations how the data we see on the news is experienced in real life. I have listened to leaders of color share the impact of this pandemic on their communities — on their lives and on their ministries. These stories are difficult but important, so we are launching a special series on LivingLutheran.org to lift up these voices for us all to hear. We also seek to ensure that our COVID-19 response more effectively tends to the realities of racism and racial inequality. We are church together.

Recently, in cities across this country, we have seen horrifying anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages displayed during public protests against gov-

ernment orders that are intended to protect lives. No matter our politics or opinions about our elected leaders and their policies, all of us must come together on the basis of our church's commitments to condemn racism against indigenous people and people of color, white supremacy, sexism, and anti-Semitism whenever they occur. Whether our churches and communities are racially diverse or predominantly white, our work for racial and economic justice for all people is work for all of us. We are church together.

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are joined to each other. Paul helps us to understand this by speaking of the one body of Christ, with many members. While this is always true, perhaps we feel it more acutely in this time of physical distancing. In our longing to be church together, let us be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

In partnership,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop, ELCA



CartoonChurch.com

Zion Lutheran Church

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Lake Crystal, MN 56055
Phone: 507-726-2849

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Church Office e-mail:

zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org
pastor@zionluthlakecrystal.org

Church website:

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Sunday Morning

9:00 a.m. Livestreamed
on Zion's Facebook

Listen to sermons at www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday (8-4)
Tuesday (8-12)
Wednesday (8-4)
Thursday (8-4)
The Office is closed Friday.

Phone: 507-726-2849

Our Mission Statement

"To Make Jesus Known to All in
Our Words and Actions!"

Inside:

**Safety Guidelines
for Small Group Gatherings**

Zion Scholarship Winners

May Council Recap

VBS Save The Date

**Zion Lutheran Church
211 East Robinson Street
Lake Crystal, MN 56055**

Pastor

Rev. Andrea Myers

Office Manager

Mary Gilman

Choir Director

Linda Isebrand

Organist

Sheldon Meyer

SonRise

*Myron Sandstrom
Mark Friday
Mike Thompson
Clarence (Clyde) Thompson*

Custodians

Bob and Barb McDonald