



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings July 2020

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Welcome (Back) to Worship

By the time you read this, we will have already experienced our first in person worship since mid-March. I'm looking forward to it, although I recognize that it won't be the way it was. Some of our members will not be present in person, but they will be in spirit, participating through our new live streaming capabilities. Where two or three are gathered (in person or virtual) God is with us!

When will we go "back to normal"? or in the words of the Psalm 13:1, "How long, O Lord?" No one has an answer. I choose to trust that God's timing is perfect. Rather than complain or worry over things I cannot control, I'm working on gratitude: giving thanks to God right now for new insights, for new relationships developed through phone calls or other media, for opportunities that came because things were shut down, for blue skies and breezes that move through the trees, etc.

Let's praise God from whom all blessings flow, even if we just hum in the pew or at home!

– Gail Voss



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Justice and Mercy

Walking Humbly with God

The events over the last month in our United States of America have been mindboggling. We were struggling through the COVID 19 Pandemic and all of a sudden George Floyd is killed in a police arrest that has changed the country and perhaps the world forever.

Protests started in lots of major metropolitan areas ... including right here in Ferguson. Most all of them started peacefully and then a number of them turned into riots, looting, burning, and even some killing as we saw here in the St. Louis area. It has continued, with more incidents occurring during police arrests. Most all of the protesting has moved forward under the umbrella of “Black Lives Matter” but other elements have joined in the protests causing most of the issues with the lawlessness.

At the end of the hallway that ends just past the entrance to the church office here at Zion is a sign that says “Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of ALL People”! As I came to church this morning, my brain was still turning over the news that has basically been the same for a month. As Christians, I’m hoping we all have an understanding of what our lives should be like as we live together in a world where everyone is different.



Some of us are black, white, brown, yellow, and I’m probably going to run out of colors! Some of us are different genders and in today’s culture it is many. I could go on but I think that you probably get my point ... if not, let me be perfectly clear ... “Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of ALL People”.

As Christians, we all believe in the Bible! Some of us interpret it a little different than others so we ended up with different denominations. We believe that the entire Bible is the Inspired Word of God. We believe in the Old Testament and we believe in the New Testament. We believe that they both are important to what we believe and how we live our lives. We say, “You may not understand the New Testament

until you understand the Old Testament” ... and in fact, that is what I believe.

History matters! Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior of ALL People, used many references from the Old Testament when he taught and preached, and in Luke 4, after reading the prophet Isaiah, Jesus turns to the people and says, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

History matters and all people matter to Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

Like many of you, I was born and raised a Lutheran, and I like our Lutheran music and I’ve made it through all of those hymnal changes from red to green to blue to red ... and just like the color of people, I’m guessing we’ll run out of colors pretty soon. But when I get in my car to come to work or drive home, I listen to country western music ... and more specifically right now I listen to a CD that is by the Highwaymen.

For those of you who don’t know who the Highwaymen are, they are four of country western’s best musicians, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson. They sing a number of songs that were written by Kris. One of those is entitled “Living Legend”. I wish I could talk to Kris to find out what the history is behind that song because the lyrics could lead you to believe he is talking about Jesus Christ.

The lyrics take you back 2,000 years ... and wonders if we’d answer the call ... and then ends up with these words ... “would you still answer the call ... tell the truth my friend, don’t it matter anymore?”

I want to focus on those words at the end, based on what is going on in our world today ... “don’t it matter anymore?”

The folks out there protesting and then rioting, burning, looting, and killing seem to be focused on destroying our history and forgetting that “Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of ALL People”! And in fact, a recent message from one of those people either being part of the protesting, or supporting, was saying that we need to change our understanding of who Jesus Christ is. The Jesus Christ who came into the world as a human being was a Jew.

My answer to Kris’ last line of the song “Living Legend” ... “don’t it matter anymore?” is yes it matters because:

History matters and all people matter to Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

God is good and full of GRACE!

Blessing,
Pr Larry



July Birthdays

- 2nd Audrey Fink
- 3rd Stacey Miller
- 10th Roberta Panosh
- 11th Emily Voss
- 22nd Justin Kinney
- 27th Megan Hickman
- 29th Annis Tucker
- 31st Robert Negwer

July Anniversaries

- 10th Alton & Catherine Copeland
- 12th Robert & Esther Negwer



Stole Dedication

The first Sunday back for worship in the sanctuary was special in several ways – one was the dedication of Pr. Larry's stole. Pr. Larry was ordained in January. Many people contributed to a congregational gift of a custom made stole. Pr. Larry desired to have a stole that he could wear during every liturgical season. Doris McCall and members of the worship team worked with an artist in Texas who produces quilted liturgical vestments and banners. The background of Pastor Larry's stole is white with quilted stitching. You can see green, blue and purple in the water at the bottom. There are green leaves on the grapes and wheat shaft. The grapes are purple. The dove is outlined in red.

The symbols of the sacraments are at the top. On the left is the baptismal shell with three drops of water for the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. On the right are the grapes and wheat for the Lord's Supper. Below those are the open Bible for teaching God's word, and proclaiming the crucified and risen Savior Jesus that is the symbol of the empty cross on the left. At the bottom left is the descending dove representing the gift of the Holy Spirit coming to the church at Pentecost and to us in baptism. The symbol at the bottom right is near and dear to Pr. Larry; it's the pitcher, basin, towel and cross that represent service as in foot washing and is the symbol he wore for the 25 years he served God and the church as parish ministry associate (PMA). At the back of the neck is a cross. Inside is a dedication: "Given by the grateful people of Zion. God is good and full of GRACE!"

The prayer of dedication: Dearest Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We thank you for giving us your faithful servant, Larry Lemke, to lead us. We ask your special blessing on this stole that we dedicate today. May it always be a reminder for Pastor and for us of his call to preach your word, administer the sacraments and nurture us, your people in this place, so that together we bear your creative and redeeming love to all the world. In your great name we pray. Amen.

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

By the time this newsletter gets published, we will have had an in-person worship service. Please be patient as we work through this new way to do things and be flexible as things evolve. We completely understand that not everyone will be coming to worship yet. No one should come until they are completely comfortable doing so. Our new video streaming equipment is in so we will continue to have recorded worship for everyone. This will continue every week, even after the threat of Covid passes, so please share the worship information with your friends and family, no matter how near or far they are! If you are having technical difficulties, please let Andi in the church office know. We do not want technology to be a barrier to experiencing worship.

A HUGE thank you goes out to those involved for everything done (and is still being done) to make the video streaming equipment a reality for us. We appreciate all of the time and talents shared with us. Thank you!

If you would like to be a part of helping to record services on some Sundays, either now or in the future, please let Bill know. We could use the help of folks to make sure that the responsibility is shared among a group of people, not just a few.

The Strategic Planning team is meeting every two weeks. Please pray for us as we work on this important effort related to Zion's vision for the future.

There are a lot of new things going on in the world and at Zion! Change is not always easy. Please try to be as open to change as you can be and remember that each individual has their own way to do things; their own individual mark to make on this world. Let's embrace what is unique about each of us and allow each other to shine!

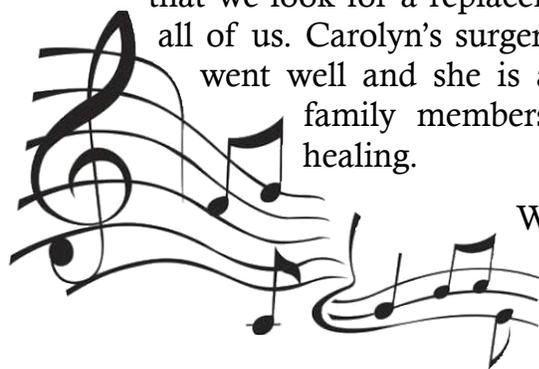
Blessings to each of you!
Pam Statler, Council President

Let the Chimes Ring

Zion's new organist, Dr. William Sullivan, will begin his duties on the first and third Sunday beginning on July 3rd. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with a music major from Washington University. He followed that with a Master of Arts with a major in organ performance also from Wash U. He went on to study at Indiana University-Bloomington, IN and earned a Doctor of Music degree.

Dr. Sullivan comes to us with a wealth of experience having served a variety of church denominations ranging from those who do not use liturgy to those who do. Additionally, he has performed in the American Theatre Organ Society annual regional festivals and other special organ presentations.

Our previous organist, Carolyn Rock, planned to be with us through Easter and then have shoulder replacement surgery. She expected a 3 month recovery and suggested that we look for a replacement for her. Covid-19 altered the schedule for all of us. Carolyn's surgery was postponed until June 26th. The surgery went well and she is at home recovering with the help and love of family members. We wish Carolyn well and pray for her healing.



We look forward to Dr. William Sullivan leading us in worship. Welcome, Dr. Sullivan!

Where Is My Worship?

Although some people may feel comfortable attending in-person worship, others do not yet feel they are ready -- and others may be ill, or out of town -- but whatever the situation, you will always be able to take Zion with you. You can now fit worship into your busy schedule anytime by visiting our YouTube channel and catching up on the latest prayers and Zion announcements available. The easiest way to find us is to go to zionferguson.com and click on the link for YouTube. And for you stay-at-home early birds, you can watch the service live by clicking the YouTube Live link also found on the home page of zionferguson.com. Oh what a time to be alive!

What is the Witness of the Church in These Days

Article by Bishop Susan Candea, CSS

It has been over three months since the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated suspending in person gatherings for worship. These days have been long as we worked to figure out how to take worship services online, and now for some of our congregations to begin worshipping in person while continuing to practice “social distancing” and other necessary precautions. This pandemic is far from over as new cases and hospitalizations continue to surge as more businesses open and people, it seems, are not willing to continue following guidelines from health officials including wearing masks in public.

In the midst of this pandemic, which revealed with even greater clarity the divisions and disparities in our country around race, we have witnessed the continued killing of unarmed black individuals by police. The realities and destruction of racism could no longer be ignored and so protests erupted with calls to work for justice because black lives do matter.

What is the witness of the church in these days? The gospel provides us with a powerful witness that it is not about individual rights but being part of a community where we care for the most vulnerable. One health expert shared his perspective that the main reason the United States is unable to slow the spread of the virus is because in this country we place a higher value on independence and the freedom and rights of individuals to do as they choose without mandatory laws requiring certain behaviors, such as wearing masks. (Why has this become such a divisive issue??) We witness to the reality that in Christ we are individually valued and connected as one in Christ, part of the one body, where if one member suffers, we all suffer.

The gospel provides us with a powerful witness that we are broken sinful people who are redeemed by God’s grace. We can be honest about our need to repent, lament our own participation in the systemic sin of racism, and see the grace of God at work in the other and in ourselves. We can listen without needing to justify, speak without demonizing the other, and work together with those of differing perspectives so that all might experience the justice and mercy of God’s reign.

The gospel also provides us with a powerful witness of resurrection, of the Spirit’s creative activity in the world. While we cannot return to “normal” as much as we may long for those days, we can rely on the Spirit to work among us, opening us up to new possibilities that we, because we were stuck in the “normal” way of doing things, we didn’t know were out there. We can be faithful and do things differently! We can be generous and wise stewards in times of economic uncertainty. We can struggle with the continuing challenges and be grateful for all the beauty and blessings we experience.

What will be the witness of the church in these days, as we journey through ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown . . . knowing only that God’s hand is leading us and God’s love supporting us? What will be your witness?

The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop
Central States Synod, ELCA

Every \$100
donated
makes
416 meals

Raffle and Dinner for Two

Benefiting Feed My Starving Children North County
Pack

August 23, 2020
5pm-8pm

Savoy Banquet Center
119 South Florissant Road

\$100 per ticket
Grand Prize: \$5,000
Second Prize: \$2,000
Third Prize: \$1,000
Four Random Drawing Prizes: \$500

You do NOT have to be in attendance to win!

*Contact Sue Dunham at **314-229-6313** for tickets or
more information.*

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



Zion Lutheran Church

July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am- Worship	29	30	1 10am-Bible Study	2 6:30pm-Bible Study  A Fink	3 Office Closed  S Miller	4 Independence Day 
5 9:30am-Worship	6	7 4:30pm-Member Care	8 10am-Bible Study	9 6:30pm-Bible Study	10  R Panosh  A&C Copeland	11  E Voss
12 9:30am-Worship  R&E Negwer	13	14 6:00pm-Finance 6:30pm-Council Zoom	15 10am-Bible Study	16 6:30pm-Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30am-Worship	20 Tidings Deadline Pr. Larry in NM	21 Pr. Larry in NM	22  J Kinney Pr. Larry in NM	23 Pr. Larry in NM	24 Pr. Larry in NM	25
26 9:30am-Worship	27  M Hickman	28	29 10am-Bible Study  A Tucker	30 6:30pm-Bible Study	31  R Negwer	1

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in July

	Jul 5	Jul 12	Jul 19	Jul 26	Aug 2
Pastor	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO	A Mayhew	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO	A Mayhew	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO
Assistant Minister	R Schademann	P Herrmann	C Linhorst	R Schademann	P Herrmann
Reader	R Schademann	D Balestier	S Miller	P Herrmann	N Wolz
Communion Servers	G Voss	W Devenport	S Miller	P Herrmann	G Voss
Ushers	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	D Kaiser	D Kaiser	D Kaiser	D Kaiser	G Voss A Martin

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.

If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

July 2020

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor	Larry Lemke
President	Pam Statler
Vice President:	Stacey Miller
Secretary:	Kristen Kinney
Treasurer:	Bill Budenholzer
Member At-Large:	Doris McCall
Member At-Large:	Johnnie Tucker
Member At-Large:	Jason Martin
Member At-Large:	-

Member Care Ministry

Richard Schademann
Carole Herrmann
Dorothy Kaiser
Doris McCall
Deborah Balestier
Pat Martin

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Johnnie Tucker
CDC Support:	Janet Schaper
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Worship	Gail Voss
Education	Jason Martin
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	Gail Voss/Stacey Miller

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Doris McCall

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Community Outreach	Dott Kaiser/ Doris McCall
Service	Pam Statler/Stacey Miller

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall

Community Outreach Team

Dorothy Kaiser*
Doris McCall*
Bill Budenholzer
Linda Lemke
Bob Oliver
Richard Schademann
Janet Schaper
Ara Tess
Faith Tucker
Johnnie Tucker
Deb Murrish

Service Team

Pam Statler*
Stacey Miller*
Sue Dunham
Justin Kinney
Kristen Kinney
Linn Moore
Annis Tucker
Dawn Tucker