



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings May 2020

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He Cares for You

What are you doing while you are at home? I'm sorting through boxes and continue to be surprised at what I find. I find God comforting me through these...I'll call them "lost coins." The difference between the woman in the Bible who knows she has lost a coin of great value and sweeps her house until she finds it is I didn't know I'd lost it. (Luke 15: 8-10) Guess I can say the coin found me!

So here is the "coin": a little card sent to my daughter on Valentine's Day 1984 from her great aunt.

"Whatever life shall bring your way through each and every fleeting day, through the months and long years, too, God in His Heaven shall care for you; so, with this knowledge may you go serenely and content to know whatever comes your whole life through, God in His Heaven shall care for you. Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7

God isn't just in heaven, God is everywhere! God is with me and with you continuing to love us, comfort and care for us! What a perfect reminder and just when I needed it!

-Gail Voss



Miss You!

It's been over a month now. I'm sitting here in my office and Andi will be in shortly ... and then we may see the mail person, but that is about it for today. There is a saying that I remember from way back and that is "absence makes the heart grow fonder". I think that was originally something that related to lovers, but it also relates to our congregation.

One of the comments from one of our Zoom Bible Study members last week was: "It was so good to see the smiling faces of our members."

It will be so good to have you all in church when this is all over! But it will never be over, will it? There will be a new normal and it will be different. As Bishop Candeia said in one of her messages to all of us last week: "We missed the Easter service together, but we can and will all be part of a church resurrection!"

I sent a message to her telling her some of the things we are doing here at Zion and assuring her that we have been and will be part of a new Zion as we go forward.

But the "new normal" will mean that we will all have an opportunity to change, and it will be for the better. But it will mean that us Lutherans will have to embrace "change". Please remember what the resurrection was all about: Jesus died on that cross for the forgiveness of your sins and mine and was resurrected that we might have eternal life! Wow! Talk about change ... that is change.

I must admit that what we've been doing is not all that different for me. I still come to work every day. I do my Daily Devotions either here or at home early in the morning, my sermon prep is done here where I have my books, and my phone is always by my side. What is different is I don't get to visit folks, but I use the phone and our wonderful Member Care folks who are calling you all every week.

And you've helped with the communications because I get comments from you on my Daily Devotions which I always enjoy. And I hear from some of you frequently. Please don't ever hesitate to call me if you need something.

As we look to the future of being back together, please keep our entire congregation and beyond in your prayers. Some of us take these kind of changes better than others, so be patient and encourage others as we Love God and Love our Neighbors.

God is good and full of GRACE!

Blessings,
Pr. Larry



May Birthdays

9th Adele Cross
20th Dott Twillmann
25th Christine Walters



May Anniversaries

28th John & Rhonda Moseley
31st Ronald & Wanda Devenport

FMSC Update

The Feed My Starving Children organization has issued a “No Pack” until August. Therefore our fundraisers and July pack has been canceled for this year.

Our major fundraisers will be rescheduled at a later date and we will receive a new pack date. We are looking forward to continuing our good works and for your continued support.

Fish Fries

We've enjoyed serving our church family and community as quickly and safely as possible with the best fish in town, but at this time with the uncertainty of the virus, our fish fries have been discontinued until further notice.

Be Still and Wait: Trusting that Jesus Will Find You

The title of an article in the April edition of Living Lutheran where I found this quote is “Reflection: This is our story.” You can find this at Livinglutheran.org and can also listen to the articles. The pastor describes playing a game called sardines where one person hides and the seekers join the one hiding until only one seeker is left. Here is the conclusion of the brief article:

“I think back to playing sardines and relishing the joy of being found. Holy Week and Easter remind us that Jesus is the one who always seeks and finds us, the one who sacrifices his life for us, the one who joins us outside the empty tomb.

This April, keep your eyes open for moments of connection – with Scripture, your neighbors, your soul and God. Be still and wait, trusting that Jesus will find you.”

I'm sure the articles were submitted well before the stay at home orders were given, so I find the encouragement to “keep your eyes open for moments of connection” especially timely.

(Continued) ▶

This strange time when activity outside the home is nearly halted is an opportunity to make that special connection with God. Consider joining the Wednesday morning ZOOM Bible Study. Get your devotional booklets by making arrangements to pick them up at church or having Andi send you a copy. Sit outside and be awed by the beauty of God's creation. We look forward to returning to worship in person when the time comes, though that will likely look different. In the meantime, please keep connected to those you love and care about by phone, text, email, social media and even snail mail!

-Gail Voss

A Message from the President

I pray each of you is safe and healthy. I know this is an unusual time in our history. It will be something for the history books for sure. I cannot wait to be back together as a church family. I miss everyone!

The church council met in April by conference call with some folks using video on Zoom. As you will see from the council minutes, we voted to purchase equipment in order to video stream our worship services. This is for the future so that we can reach out to the community and share our worship. For example, one thought is to see if we could arrange to stream worship services to the residents at Oak Knoll. Also, in the winter anyone staying at home because of bad weather can still see worship. There will be lots of possibilities.

The equipment is on order and once it is installed, the company will train us how to use it. If you are interested in knowing how to help manage the video streaming process, please let Bill Budenholzer know. We purposely purchased a system that would be easy to use so you do not have to be super-technical.

If you do not want to be involved in helping to use the system but would like to support the purchase of the equipment, your contribution is welcomed. Just mark your contribution with the notation "video streaming."

If you have access to Thrivent Action Funds (\$250) and would be willing to explore whether we could use those funds to support our community outreach by video streaming, let Bill Budenholzer know that, too.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about video streaming worship, please let me or Pastor Larry know. We are all excited to move forward using technology and trying new ways to reach out into the community.

I thank each one of you and am grateful for all that you do to honor God and serve each other and all of our neighbors near and far.

-Pam Statler, Council President

Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – 6:30PM (Zoom Meeting)

In Attendance: Bill Budenholzer, Larry Lemke, Jason Martin, Richard Shademann, Pam Statler, Stacey Miller, Johnnie Tucker, Kristen Kinney Excused Absence: Doris McCall

- Welcome and Devotion
 - John 20 – Meetings Jesus has with the disciples
 - “Peace be with you. As the father has sent me so I send you” – he had us in mind
 - Doubting Tomas – “Do not doubt, but believe”
- Confirm approval of meeting minutes from March 2020 meeting
 - Motion made to accept the minutes as written; seconded; approved
- Synod Activity Opportunities
 - Synod Assembly Cancelled June 4th-6th
- Pastor’s Report
 - Finished up mid-week services – started the video feeding for Sunday morning services
 - Zoom Bible Study starting at 10am on Wednesday April 15
 - Ferguson Ministerial Alliance met via Zoom – only doing things from the standpoint of trying to make sure that information about what is going on in Ferguson is out there
 - Hours have been staying the same in the church office for the most part
 - Since the CDC shut down, Marvin has been working 4 hours per day
 - Most churches are doing the same things that Zion is doing and more
- Video Streaming Equipment Proposal – Bill
 - Wanting to start a video outreach to members of our community and congregation
 - Zion is seeking a system to stream professional quality video to the internet
 - An additional microphone for the piano and a handheld microphone needs to be integrated into the existing system in the ushers room
 - Vendor will be responsible for set up, installation, and training
 - Zion will be buying the computer
 - The cost will be divided into four parts
 - The Video Camera – not to exceed \$2600
 - The Video Mixer – not to exceed \$2400
 - The computer with software – not to exceed \$1300
 - Setup and installation - \$2400
 - Total would be \$8700
 - Looking to have Thrivent help with the cost since this is an outreach project – Members can ask for \$250 to be used for various projects
 - An anonymous member of the congregation has pledged to contribute approximately half the cost of the system (not to exceed the amount shown above)
 - This does not include various licensing fees for music and Augsburg material that is used for worship every week - fees are minimal

- Will consider using current year memorials to cover the cost
 - Motion made to approve moving forward on the streaming service not to exceed \$8700, seconded, approved
- Team Reports
 - Finance Report – Bill
 - Church in the red for \$640
 - CDC in the red for \$1900
 - Paying 2 weeks' severance to the teachers; paying any accumulated vacation they had; Had to refund money for a fundraiser – waiting to get a refund from the company;
 - Member Care Ministry – Richard
 - Member care ministry members are checking in with Richard and are checking on the members as needed
 - Worship – Pr. Larry
 - Service bulletins are being sent out for Sunday worship services and services are being uploaded to Facebook and to members
 - Education- Jason
 - No current report
 - CDC Support – Kristen
 - CDC was put on hold for 2.5 weeks initially and is now officially closed for the spring school year – discussion about the future will take place in the next few months
 - Families came out and got the food out of the pantry and the fridge
 - Teachers have been paid and have gotten their vacation paid out as well
 - Some teachers currently have job offers or have interviews
 - Strategic Planning – Pam
 - Team is complete
 - Pausing to figure out how to meet
 - Service/Community – Stacey
 - Currently have a meeting scheduled for May 5th
 - Decision will be made regarding if or when we will have the meeting
 - Property – Pam/Johnnie
 - No report
 - Hospitality – Doris
 - No report
 - Personnel
 - No report
- Council Retreat
 - To be rescheduled
- Voters Meeting
 - To Be Rescheduled
- Next Council Meeting – May 12th at 6:30pm
- Prayer
- Adjourned 8:00pm



Zion Lutheran Church

May Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 31 9:30am-Online Worship 	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 9:30am-Worship Online	4 4:30pm-Member Care Zoom	5 6:30pm-Council Zoom	6 10am-Bible Study	7	8	9  A Cross
10 9:30am-Worship Online	11	12	13 10am-Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:30am-Worship Online	18	19	20 10am-Bible Study  D Twillmann	21	22	23
24 9:30am-Worship Online	25 Tidings Deadline  C Walters	26	27 10am-Bible Study	28  J&R Moseley	29	30