



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings March 2021

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WHAT'S NEW

Last evening – I'm catching up from my 24 hour bug – I had been working from home; I had two zoom meetings to attend, and I was trying to see if it really was just a 24 hour bug (it was by the way). I was up this morning and doing my normal morning exercises, walking, and feeling good.

So here I am, way behind in catching up with my Tidings article. Andi is kind to me, but said it had to be in this morning. Last evening, I asked Linda, "What does the congregation want to hear from their pastor?" Her response was, "What is going on in the CSS?" I purposely stay away from that subject in my daily devotions and devote them to scripture, my feelings, and activity.

But before I get into the CSS activity, let me finish (probably never will be finished) my difficulty in getting past the funeral I conducted last Tuesday. It came to me this morning when I got up: I had a picture in my mind of Leland's wife, his son and wife, and daughter and wife, standing at his casket, looking at Leland and all the grandkids stuff that went with him to his grave. It finally hit me ... it was a picture of my own family. The ages are almost identical. I've known Leland's family since the now grown son and daughter were nine and seven. I think I can now come to grips with it all. May God take care of them all.

Let me shift gears and let you know what is taking place in the CSS. The first zoom I was on yesterday was the CSS Walking Together gathering. It is a once a month gathering that Bishop Candeia holds for all the clergy in the CSS. It's usually just a check-in, and then some small group discussion. Yesterday the subject was where are your congregations on this Lenten journey all the way through Easter.

Two pastors talked about what their congregations are doing, both were close to what we are doing, but with a couple of things different. One of the congregations is from Kansas, the other from the St. Louis area. First, the things that are the same:

- In person worship
- Live streaming
- Masks & social distancing
- Communion, one church like we use to do, the other church bread from the presider and take your own pre-filled cup (kind of like we use to do)
- One preacher preaches with mask off and wanders, the other with mask on and in pulpit/lectern
- As near as I could tell the music/singing was much like we do

Now what was different:

- One church takes by appointment only for in person worship (they max out at 50)
- One church has information on a screen for both in person and live streaming
- One church is doing Wednesday Lenten fellowship by ordering from a local restaurant which delivers, you are given your meal and then sit in their fellowship area unmasked while they eat, then have a service much like we use to have on Wednesday's during Lent
- One church in the Kansas City area is going to open their worship space on Good Friday but regulate the people that come in on a come, pray and kneel at the cross station that is up against the altar. The idea was that their focus in the past, much like ours, was come to the altar area and do the same, but now we have the social distancing issue

This is what I've heard in the last couple of months and also on Tuesday from other clergy: We still have churches in the rural area that have been wide open for a long time and don't have any restrictions, although some of the parishioners who

attend do wear masks and attempt to social distance. The Lenten journey and Holy Week for them will look like it always has.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have some churches who are still not open at all and who are offering taped worship much the same way we did way back in March of 2020 until we opened at the end of June.

As you probably remember, because I'm just a young whippersnapper, after I was ordained, I was assigned a Coach (in my case, former Bishop Roger Gustafson), and I was assigned to a First Call Team that Bishop's Associate Dave Whetter leads.

In addition to these, I was assigned to the Congregational Vitality ELCA group and attend a long series of zoom discussions.

Almost all of the subjects discussed have moved on from the pandemic and the First Call issues that come up from folks that went through the normal process. Now, the subjects are a result of last summers protesting, and focus on racial injustice. As an example, our First Call Team is about to start discussion on a book entitled "The Black Christ" by Kelly Brown Douglas.

And now, I'd like you to take this famous scripture from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a: "4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8Love never ends."

This is of course, Paul's letter to the folks in Corinth and Paul is talking about God's Love. By the way, that is not romantic love that Paul is talking about, it is God's Love. Lest we forget it: God is Love.

Remember in John 15:12, Jesus says this, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have love you."

So now ask, "Is Pastor Larry patient?" I get a "C" at best. It's something to ponder ourselves. Put yourself in that text and see how you do. What grade would you give yourself?

God is good and full of GRACE! Thank Goodness.

Peace,
Pr Larry



March Birthdays

7 th	Jason Martin
8 th	Bill Taylor
10 th	Esther Negwer Jayda Tucker
11 th	Ethan Robinson
15 th	Fannie Cole
16 th	Alissa Robinson
17 th	Ara Tess Dorothy Scales
19 th	Ruth Lemons
29 th	Steven Kaiser

March Anniversaries

14 th	Justin & Kristen Kinney
17 th	Thomas & Julie Webber

Midweek Lenten Services



Pr. Larry will host midweek Lenten worship services on Wednesday at 6:30 PM through the month of March. These services will be held via Zoom. If you would like to join but are not currently on our email list, please contact office@zionferguson.com.

Welcome Back, Carolyn

Zion welcomes back Carolyn Rock as the “new” organist! Carolyn has worked with Zion before, from Christmas Eve 2018 through Holy Week of 2020. She regrettably had to leave Zion because of a much needed shoulder surgery and time to recover. She will be returning to Zion on Sunday, March 7th!

Chapel Chat

Every Sunday at 2:00 PM, Carol Linhorst will host a Zoom covering a variety of Bible topics. If you would like to be a participant and you are not on the email list, please contact office@zionferguson.com.

FMSC Spring 2021 Raffle

The FMSC North County Pack will host an online raffle on April 18th from 5pm-8pm to raise money for the Feed My Starving Children organization. Tickets cost \$100 each, you may purchase as many as you'd like, they are tax deductible, and there are only 250 tickets available. Every \$100 donated pays for 416 meals (that's approximately 1 meal a day for nearly 14 months – OR – 3 meals a day for 4 and a half months)! Grand prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$2,000, third prize is \$1,000, and there will be four \$500 fourth place prizes drawn. You do not have to be in attendance to win. Contact Sue Dunham (314) 229-6313 for tickets or for more information.



A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

It was a year ago that everything shut down and the world started dealing with the effects of COVID-19. I am sure none of us expected the long term nature of this serious health crisis. We are all so sorry for all the lives that have been lost and pray for the families and friends that grieve.

As you know, during this past year through the efforts of the members of the Strategic Planning Team we came up with four goals and related objectives. We are on our way of starting down the path of those goals. If you have wondered how you might be involved, even during this time of limited interaction, please let me or Pastor Larry know. We would love to pair your passion with the work that is being done on our goals. We need people with all kinds of talents and any kind of time.

- You do not need to be a financial "guru" to be on the Financial Sustainability Team; you just need to have an opinion about our future and how we might support that with our financial assets.
- You do not need to be a teacher to be on the Education/Faith Formation Team; you just need a passion for what might help you and others strengthen your foundation of faith and deepen your relationship with God through study.
- Want to talk about trying different worship ideas; maybe the Alternative Worship team is something you'd enjoy being involved in.
- Don't forget partnership/outreach with the Community in Unity Team; join that team and help assess the needs in our community and what Zion might do to help serve others. Then have fun making our plans happen.

Zion is a small congregation with a very big heart. Let's show our neighbors that we love and care for them by doing all that we can to realize our goals for the future.

With a grateful heart,

Pam



2020 Contribution Range Report

Zion is fortunate to have many generous members, and other individuals, that contribute financially to support our mission. The following table is an effort to show the giving range for budget related contributions, which includes loose offerings and special envelopes such as Birthday, Lent, Easter, Christmas, etc. Zion has 23 sets of contribution envelopes and about 27 each 3## numbers in use.

Contribution Range Report January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Contribution Range	# of Contributors	Total Given	Avg. per Contributor
0 – 0	7	0	0
.01 – 50	2	15	7.50
50.01 – 150	3	370	123
150.01 – 500	10	3,099	309
500.01 – 1,000	11	8,601	781
1,000.01 – 1,500	8	9,762	1,220
1,500.01 – 2,500	5	9,320	1,864
2,500.01 – 5,000	7	23,056	3,293
5,000.01 – 10,000	2	15,159	7,579
10,000.01 – and up	5	88,906	17,781
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Total	\$158,288	\$2,638

This does not include contributions made for:

ELCA/Central States Synod	9,842
Property Maintenance	14,910
Future HVAC System	20,320
Memorials for Individuals	4,885
Video Streaming Equipment	8,120
All Among Us	3,200
Good Samaritan Fund	980
St. Stephen's Food Pantry	700

Contribution statements for 2020 have been mailed. If you haven't received yours, call Paul Herrmann or the church office. We are thankful for your past support, and ask if you can consider moving up to the next "giving range."

Prayer for Putting on a Mask

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth – let it be “an outward sign of an inward grace” – a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully – and full of care – to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love. In your Name and in that love, I pray. Amen.



–The Right Reverend Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada

Arts As Healing

Arts As Healing Foundation (AAHF) “Creative Outreach Program”, funded in part by the Arts and Education Council, is expanding in 2021 and we are inviting you to join us!

AAHF program addresses the problem of stress, loneliness, depression, and emotional isolation by introducing the magic of art and creative expression. Arts As Healing was founded on the principle that the creative arts aid in the healing process for those who have experienced or are experiencing a physical or emotional challenge. And is especially needed during the ongoing pandemic. Our program gives people a positive focus at the same time it provides a new awareness of untapped creative talents and skills. We have seen, and our participants have told us, that their lives have changed through their ability to express themselves visually, learn a new skill, and to be productive in a new way.

Once enrolled, an AAHF instructor will call and introduce themselves, and explain the benefits of the program. The AAHF instructor will also inquire about your art experience, goals for enrolling, and expectations from the program.

For many this may be the first time taking an art lessons. Be assured that you are never judged; this is an opportunity for creative expression and exploration. The classes cover a variety of media and techniques. Projects will build as basic skills are mastered. Each unit will last approximately 4 to 6 weeks. If current pandemic restrictions persist, classes will be held virtually, via Zoom conferencing.

For more information about the program please contact Jan Fitzgerald: (314) 991-4954 jeg.fitzgerald@gmail.com To enroll: Call 314-370-3700

Dining to Donate



Bandana's BBQ wants to make a difference, along with several North St. Louis County congregations, and help fund 171,000 meals for starving children around the world. This year they will be assembled by a private company in conjunction with Feed My Starving Children (fmssc.org) because Covid restrictions prevent us from doing our usual pack in July.

You can help by joining your family, friends, and co-workers for a meal from Bandana's.

When?

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
11:00am – 9:00pm

Where?

Our Florissant Location
8234 N. Lindbergh
314-837-6000

You **must** present this flyer (paper or cell phone version) when you pick up your order. Bandana's will donate a portion of the associated proceeds to:



Good for Dine-in or Carryout

SMELL THAT SMOKE

Zion Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 6:30PM

In Attendance: Johnnie Tucker, Pastor Larry Lemke, Fannie Cole, Bill Budenholzer, Jason Martin, Carol Linhorst, Stacey Miller, Kristen Kinney, Pam Statler, Jan Roevekamp, Doris McCall

- **Welcome and Devotion**
 - Titus 3: 3-8
 - Why is it hard to love my neighbor?
- **Confirm approval of meeting minutes from Jan 2021 meeting**
 - Motion made, seconded, and approved
- **Pastor's Report**
 - In the Ferguson Ministerial Alliance meeting racism was discussed and how that impacts everyone differently
 - Plan on having an Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am on April 4th
 - Ella Jones brought up Ferguson Council meetings and extended an invitation to attend them
 - Pastor's Annual Report and Congregational Annual Report have been submitted
 - Organist Changes
 - Dr. William Sullivan has resigned effective February 21st and Carolyn Rock will be returning as organist
- **Space Sharing Update**
 - Boone from Woke Bridge Community Church has indicated that they will be sending the \$500 deposit (as requested after January's Council meeting)
 - He would like to show the office space to some team members
 - An attorney drafted a non-binding letter of intent (for no charge) to be signed to go along with the deposit. This is not the formal lease agreement that will be signed once final terms are negotiated and the congregation approves. The letter of intent lays out the charges that the Council proposed in January.
 - Pastor is going to give the letter of intent to Boone to discuss and sign
 - The first priority will be to clear out the office area
 - Bill has moved electronics out of the office
 - Janet, Pam, Kristen, and Justin have volunteered to go through the CDC paperwork to save or discard securely

- Current plans are to keep the room closest to the main stairs for Zion's storage (Room 1)
- **Team Reports**
 - Worship Team – Pr. Larry
 - Lenten Devotionals will be sent out by mail
 - Every Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, will be a Zoom meeting to use the devotionals
 - Will put a container of disposal Communion packets in the coat room for people to come pick up for streaming the service
 - Going to start doing Children's Messages for kids who are virtually streaming the service
 - Still focusing on maintaining social distance during service
 - Discussed having a Lector again that will come into the altar area from the office and leave via the office when the readings are complete
 - Valentines Afternoon Zoom Gathering
 - 3:30pm zoom session
 - Fun games and discussions
 - Will last about an hour
 - Member Care Ministry – Doris
 - Did not meet in February
 - Discussions about older members and their needs of prayers
 - Having a meeting in March
 - Property – Pam/Johnnie
 - No updates
 - Treasurer Report – Bill
 - Church is in the red for \$357 for the month of January and the CDC is in the red for \$168 due to expenses being coded to the CDC in error. These will be corrected in February.
 - There will be no CDC results in 2021
 - Financial Sustainability - Pam
 - Has met once – Pam Statler, Paul Herman, Bill Budenholzer, and Pastor
 - Have invited other people to join
 - Discussed having a learning session about estates, will creating, etc.
 - Planned and participated in an investment review with Thrivent
 - Plan to start by presenting the congregation with where we are currently from a financial standpoint, including a history of the last 20 years of financial results.
 - Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach) – Stacey

- Met in January
- February's meeting will include a discussion with Toni Burrow, Ward 2 Ferguson Council Member, about needs in Ferguson
- Hearing ideas right now and will assess those needs and discuss where the focus will be and how to form groups to create partnerships
- Education and Faith Formation – Carol
 - No activity to report
 - Starting with how can a needs assessment be done – what the congregation would like to see and learn about and how to meet those needs- Bible centered and other educational opportunities
- Alternative Worship - Jason
 - No activity to report
 - Going to be working on trying to get ideas of what other people are doing and how they can connect to Zion
- Reminder to let Council know if Emails need to be updated
- Thanks went out to Doris McCall (and Dorothy Kaiser) who did a walk-thru downstairs and then asked Marvin to remove the decorations from the walls and bulletin boards

Next Meeting Date – March 9th

Closing Prayer

Adjourned at 7:37pm



Zion Lutheran Church

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 28 9:30am- Worship 2pm-Chapel Chat	1	2 4:30pm-Member Care	3 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Mid Week Lenten Zoom	4	5	6
7 9:30am-Worship 2pm-Chapel Chat  J Martin	8 1pm-Worship Team  B Taylor	9 6:30pm-Council	10 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Mid Week Lenten Zoom  E Negwer J Tucker	11  E Robinson	12	13
14 9:30am-Worship 2pmChapel Chat  J&K Kinney	15  F Cole	16  A Robinson	17  10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Mid Week Lenten Zoom  A Tess D Scales  T&J Webber	18	19  R Lemons	20
21 9:30am-Worship 2pm-Chapel Chat	22 Tidings Deadline	23 6:30pm-Strategic Planning	24 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Mid Week Lenten Zoom	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:30am-Worship 2pm-Chapel Chat	29  S Kaiser	30 4:30pm-Member Care	31 10am-Bible Discussion	1 Maundy Thur	2 Good Friday	3

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in March

	Mar 7	Mar 14	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4
Pastor	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock
Lector	Li Lemke	D Balestier	N Wolz	Li Lemke	D Balestier
Children's Message	L Lemke	G Voss	N Wolz	L Lemke	G Voss
Ushers	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk	G Voss J Roevekamp	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk
Altar Guild	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	D Balestier

* 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.

Zion Lutheran Church
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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

March 2021

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:	Fannie Cole
Member At-Large:	Jan Roevekamp

Member Care Ministry

Doris McCall*
Carole Herrmann
Dorothy Kaiser
Richard Schademann
Deborah Balestier
Carol Tillmann

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	Gail Voss/Stacey Miller

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Doris McCall

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Service & Community	Stacey Miller
Education	Jason & Andi Martin
Alt. Worship	Bill Budenholzer

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Dorothy Kaiser
Doris McCall
Bill Budenholzer
Linda Lemke
Bob Oliver
Richard Schademann
Janet Schaper
Ara Tess
Pam Statler
Johnnie Tucker
Deb Murrish
Sue Dunham
Justin Kinney
Kristen Kinney
Linn Moore
Annis Tucker
Dawn Tucker