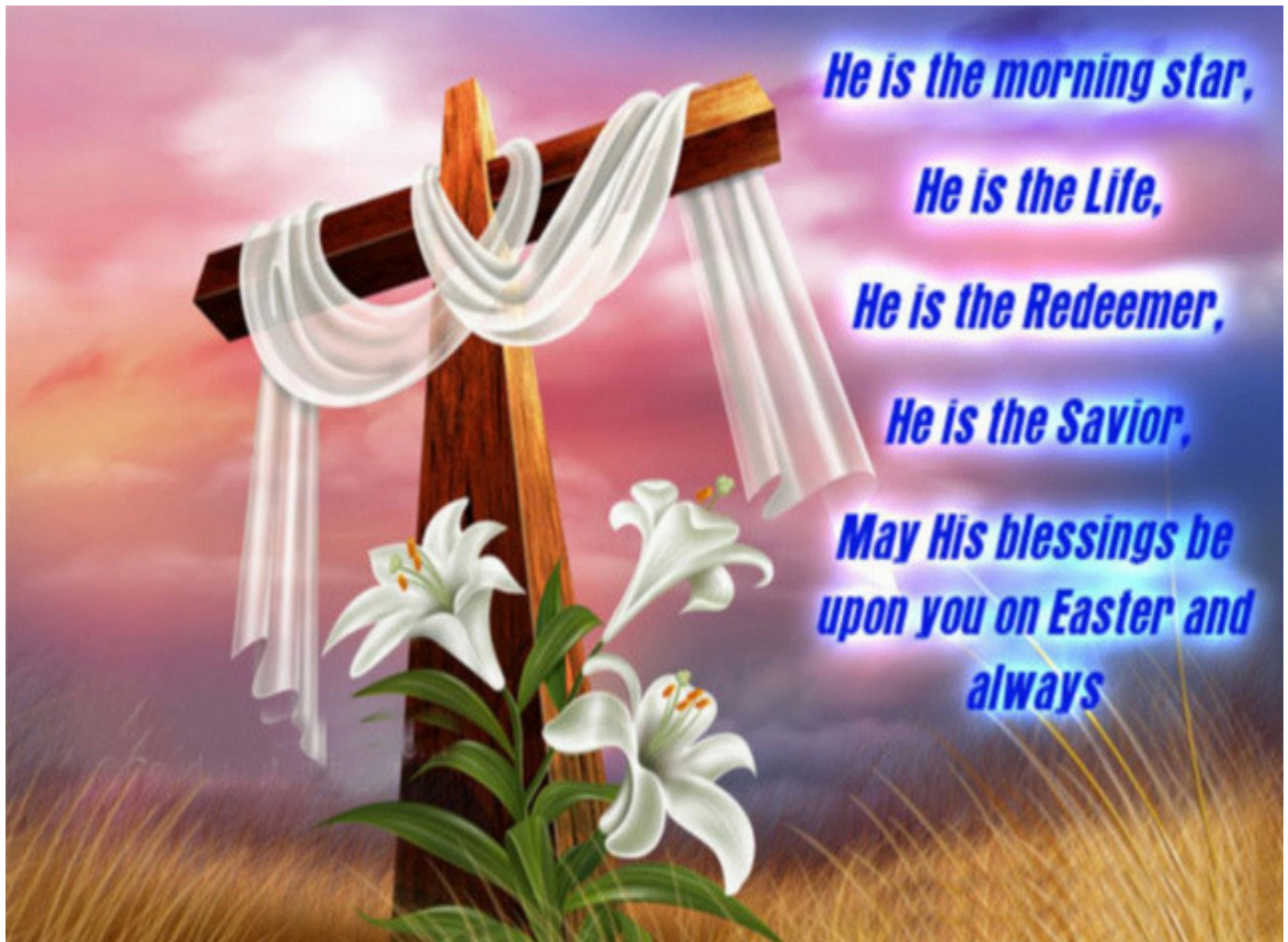


# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

April 2020



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## Changes to Church Functions Due to Health Crisis

Zion's council held a special meeting Wednesday evening, March 18, to discuss guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and from our Bishop where we are encouraged to suspend all public worship and in-person gatherings until at least April 1. Council supports this recommendation.

**Important! We are not closing!**

**We will continue to be Christ's church and do God's work, we'll just need to do it differently.**

**Here are the ways we are adapting so we can continue serving out our mission:**

Effective immediately, and until the health crisis improves, we are suspending all public worship.

We will implement live streaming of worship services. Our website, Zion-NC.com, will have the following links:

- 9:00 am Sunday live streaming of our worship service
- Worship bulletin for current Sunday
- Recorded worship service for the most recent Sunday
- Archived worship service

If you'll use live streaming, please let us know if you prefer the bulletin be mailed to you?  
If you have no internet access, would you like the bulletin and sermon mailed to you?

All in-person meetings and gatherings, are suspended until the health crisis improves, this includes:

- All Sunday School, First Communion Classes, and Bible Study with Pastor
- Comfort Keepers
- Ministry Meetings

**We encourage groups and ministries to find alternate ways to keep doing God's work serving our community and those in need. Meetings held remotely by such means as Zoom, Face Time or Skype are great options.**

Food Pantry will remain operational as long as advised by health officials. It will mean things will have to be operated differently, but our primary goal is to continue serving those in need. At risk members are encouraged to support this work through prayers and financial means while they stay isolated for safety.

Pastor will continue to be available for counseling and spiritual needs, but may have to limit personal contact as is prudent to promoting good health for all concerned.

Vicki continues to work in the office. Please limit personal contact; phone calls and email are safer.

[Please help us communicate with you by providing Vicki with your email and text phone number – we promise to use it only for church business and will not disclose it to anyone without your permission.](#)

What about you; how can we help you and provide for your needs during this time of crisis?

Tithing and offerings – we realize during these trying times, your income may change dramatically. God asks us to give first to the work of God and to give with a generous heart. We realize your giving will decrease as your income decreases, but we ask to consider that should your income not change you continue to give regularly and with a generous heart. Options for giving include:

- Mailing your check or dropping it off at the office during regular business hours.
- Using the on-line options recently implemented – see our newsletter and website for details.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

April is an exciting, busy time in the church with Holy Week and Easter. We also had a lot of activities going on with a Community Earth Day Celebration and the Easter giving tree for Wernle Home. For Zion we have the children taking communion class and their first communion on Maunday Thursday, new members Sunday with a reception are a few things. Now with the COVID-19 restrictions all of this is up in the air. But it is very important that we keep our faith and the energy that we have built up to do our Lord's work even during this trying time. It is so important that we find ways to still help our neighbors and each other. We may not be able to work on large group projects and events, but we can work on small one on one projects.. We can help a neighbor or member that is home bound with getting groceries etc. Since we are to stay in more we could call our neighbors and members, see how they are, if they need anything, and send cards and letters. We can remind them that we are here for them and Jesus is always with them. We can still keep doing our Lord's work and spreading His Love. We just need to come up with different ways. The most powerful thing that we can do is to pray.

I would like to share a prayer from Bishop Abraham Allende,

"Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen."

May God's Peace and Blessings be with you all.

Darlene

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### CARING MINISTRY



Zion Food Pantry client numbers have dropped by 72 people in February. This drop is from our December 2019 high. Easter is coming so please keep supporting your food pantry and all our clients. During February we served 137 people from 81 households. The February client breakdown was as follows: 17 children (0-17), 61 adults (18-59), and 59 seniors (age 60+). This information comes from the required Monthly Statistical Report for Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

We are in need of drivers to transport members to doctor appointments and church. The doctor

appointments are during the week. If you can help, please contact Vicki at the office.

The dates for the April Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are the 7th and the 21st. Set up time is at 9:00 am with the doors opening at 1:00 pm.



**FOOD PANTRY** needs cereal, spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit (especially canned pineapple), canned vegetables, hot cereal such as individually packaged flavored instant oatmeal, and creamed soups of all kinds (no tomato soup).

**CLOTHING CLOSET** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots,



pans, etc. We need all sizes of infant, toddlers, pre-teen, and teen girls and boy's clothes and jackets. We are also in need of men's big and tall shirts, sweatshirts, pants, sweatpants, and jeans.



**PRAYER CHAIN:** Remember, if you have any prayer requests, please contact Kay Davis, stitchandsewk810@sbsglobal.net.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

G. Scott Gross

### LEARNING MINISTRY

We are still working on our First Communion classes. We will just need to be flexible as dates and times may change for the group's gatherings. We are hopeful that we can add some additional times, if needed, to complete the four lessons before the children receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.



We are also looking at ways to prepare the youth for the Easter play, "Props for Easter". One way may be to send the play electronically to the participants so they can practice their parts for the play on Easter Sunday.

All of these activities are, of course, subject to change. Please pray for this ministry and all of our ministries as we adjust to the new ways we are staying focused on our mission at Zion.

In keeping up with the Adult Sunday School class, Jeff has asked that we read and study 2 Peter, which he had just started reviewing last Sunday. Jeff has asked that we all read and meditate on Psalm 121 to help us get through these trying times.

God's blessings be with you,  
Janet Slease

## PSALM 121

A SONG OF ASCENTS.

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—

he who watches over you will not slumber;

<sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

### RESOURCE MINISTRY

God's peace and love be with you all in these trying times; please continue to pray religiously and act responsibly to address and weather this crisis.

On a financial note, February was a difficult month for Zion. Our giving rate increased 5.5% compared to 2019 but our rate of increase has slowed compared to 2019 year end. Monthly extraordinary expenses of \$3,500, combined with our monthly ministry commitments, produced a deficit of \$12,677.92. YTD budget deficit of \$18,108.81 is offset by 2019 surplus of \$7,646.18 to produce 2020 YTD Net Income of -\$10,462.63 (deficit). This result is not unexpected based our 2020 budget projections but we had anticipated an improvement based on 2019 year end.

We realize this is a troubling time and that significant impacts to your personal finances may be occurring. We want to assure you that Zion will continue to function in a virtual manner and we will continue to support necessary ministry functions. We need your financial support and giving commitments to accomplish this.

Since face-to-face contacts will be limited for the foreseeable future, you can continue your giving support for Zion through the mail, drop it off at church or you may utilize our new electronic giving options as noted below. The following links can be utilized based on your desired electronic connection.

For giving using a PC <https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/give>

For mobile giving from a smartphone  
<https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/mobilegiving>

Or you can use the QR code attached.





You may choose to have recurring payment at intervals of weekly, monthly, or annually. This recurring payment would be most beneficial for Zion planning.

Finance Committee encourages us to use ACH (checking account) as a payment method since ACH fees are 0.8% + \$0.35 per transaction whereas most credit cards are 2.35% + \$0.35 per transaction but American Express is 3.50% + \$0.35 per transaction. You can help Zion offset some of those costs by checking the check box.

We know that we can get through this crisis by trusting in God's blessings and appropriate personal responsibility. It has forced us to improve Zion's infrastructure and enhance our ability for virtual worship when "face-to-face" contact is restricted. Please stay connected and pray for God's blessings and support as we experience the coming days. God's peace and blessings for you all!

Faithfully yours,  
John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

It doesn't feel like such a good time to be social does it? Well, .....the time will come when it will be just fine to be in community, praying, singing, and reflecting together again. And when it does, we will make up for lost time and have some fun and fellowship.



An Earth Day Celebration is being planned for April 19th from noon to 2 pm. If we need to postpone, we will let you know—any day can be a day to celebrate the Earth. Caring for Creation is our theme and there will be plenty of fun, food, and interactive activities and displays to help you care for Mother Earth. With a heritage back to the Reformation, Lutherans have a history of social service to the poor, the elderly, the oppressed and to healing the Earth community. We are in a critical position to listen to the cry of the poor along with the cry of the earth and to take leadership in addressing these critical issues of our day. Our plan is to hold the celebration outside; weather permitting. You never know about weather in Ohio in April. There is a separate sheet in the Newsletter for more information.

On July 24th we will host a great Friday night out

with a fleet of cars and activities as part of Cruise-In. All are welcome. More details to come: but mark your calendar for some summer fun!

Please save the date of September 13th for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's dedicated day of service. Since 2013, "God's work. Our hands." Sunday has inspired people of all ages to put their faith in action through service projects that share God's love with all of God's people. We are currently gathering ideas for our service projects and will have more details to share with you as it gets closer.

One last thing - I tried one of those 6 a.m. bible studies and it was great! I have never really gone to a bible study before Pastor William so I didn't really know what to expect. I really enjoyed it. The hour flew by and just like the sermons in church, I found it easy to understand and grounded in the words of the Bible. I learned something I thought I knew but I really didn't! Contact a friend or two, talk with Pastor and meet remotely for Bible Study. Face Time or Skype work well! You will get a lot of benefit from it.

Please pray for the Social Ministry as we strive to provide services to those in need. Help us to see the needs through their eyes. Give us courage and determination to keep moving forward in our thinking and in our actions.

Listen. God is calling.

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

We all know that these are challenging times, but there is good news! We have the capability now to record and provide our worship services online. I have finished installing the new camera system and we will be recording and possibly live streaming our worship services. Stay tuned for more information on how to access our worship services online. As for other activities, we still have multiple events planned. Of course, due to the current social conditions, this schedule may change.



We are planning the following events:

- April 26 - Public reception of new members
- May 10 - A breakfast is planned for Mother's Day
- May 31 - Affirmation of Baptism and Pentecost with a reception
- June 7 - Graduation Recognition for high school seniors celebration
- June 21 - Father's Day recognition

We are currently still in search of a Praise team director and musician. Efforts have been made to post this position on a couple different websites. If anyone knows of a possible contact, please let Brian Walters or anyone on the Music and Worship Ministry know about it.

We thank God for keeping us safe and giving us opportunities to still share his love and message of salvation with our community. Please keep praying for an end to this viral crisis and for those who are suffering from illness and loss of income.

May God's peace be with you,  
Brian Walters

#### **ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN FEBRUARY 2020**

February Income	\$14,681.13
Income through February	\$32,173.27
February Expenses	\$27,359.05
Expenses through February	\$50,282.08

**February Deficit**                    **-\$12,677.92**  
**2020 YTD Deficit**                **-\$18,108.81**

*We thank you for your generous support!*

#### **APRIL SENIOR BIRTHDAYS**

April 6	Cherie Henson
April 7	Sondra Elsass
April 9	Lorraine Weinman
April 15	Loren Burzycki
April 16	Larry Harsh
April 17	Dick White
April 22	Chuck Danner
April 26	John Long
April 27	Jane Fairman

#### **ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL**

April 5	Susan & Robert Heyard
April 16	Vicki & Clarence Givler
April 18	Linda & Ron Tvorik
April 20	Anna & Melvin Whalen
April 20	Melanie & Chris Whalen
April 22	Deborah & Dick Weikel
April 25	Connie & Larry Harsh

#### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

##### **Quilting, Knitting, and Crocheting**

As you may know, quilting is the stitching together of layers of padding and fabric. The art dates back as far as 3400 BC. My brother still has quilts that our paternal grandmother, an immigrant from Sweden, made to keep her family warm in northern Wisconsin. Several people have been meeting at Zion to help produce quilts. For nearly 70 years, Lutheran World Relief has organized the transportation of these homemade quilts to locations throughout the world to people struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster, and conflict. The quilts are used for physical protection, insulation, and comfort. Betty Tracy, a regular Zion quilter, said many of the quilts become dividers for makeshift housing; she makes triple knots for added strength when she ties quilts. The quilters meet here on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. They take a break at 10:30 for coffee and snacks. Some people cut, some people tie, some people sew.

Lately, a small group of people who knit and crochet have begun meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, during the same time slot as the quilters (9:30 am to 11:30 am) to make prayer shawls. They are called "prayer" shawls because they are destined for someone needing comfort and, as they are made prayers are prayed for the person who will receive them - whether the identity of that person is known at the time of the knitting/crocheting or not.

As a congregation, we send the shawls and quilts out to those we are called to serve.

Join us on a drop-in basis or once or twice a month. No experience necessary.

Linda Weidenbach

Dearest friends of Zion,

Thank you all so very much for the lovely reception and the very generous gifts, as well as the many cards, well-wishes, and flowers. I am still in a bit of a shock over your love and generosity and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

It was a big decision to leave the wonderful, loving community that is Zion, and the transition is challenging for all of us. I know that change is difficult but can also be stimulating and rewarding, and can be the impetus for new, different, and even better things than before. I have faith that Zion will continue to grow and thrive, and live out the mission of growing in love and service by grace.

Thank you again for all of your love and support. I miss each and every one of you.

God's blessings,

Suzanne

Dear Pastor & Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and thoughtfulness during my recent hospital procedure and recuperation.

Sincerely,  
Sondra Elsass



“Come and see!” (John 1:46)

Have you been part of what's going on here at Zion and feel it's time to make membership official?

We have a couple of people who have already made known their intention to become members.

You are invited to participate in the Public Reception of New Members that will happen at our worship services on Sunday April 26, 2020.

Come and see the good being done here. Come and welcome our newest members. Come and grow with us.

Should you have any questions, or to make your intention known, please contact Vicki through the church office 330-499-3909

## News from Zion's Youth



**Happy Birthday to:**

**Mason Howes - April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Weston Milek - April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Christopher Thompson - April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter): Children's Easter Program at the 10:30 service**

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day Celebration 12 – 2 pm at Zion**

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: AAIC Hunger Walk at Community Christian, Registration begins at 2 pm**

**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> (Pentecost): Confirmation Sunday**

**Week of July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>: Vacation Bible School**

**Please note, that all scheduled events and activities may have to be changed, cancelled or postponed based on the current health crisis. We will always put your health and safety first. Please pray for everyone's health and well-being, and please pray to God for guidance during this difficult time.**

## Sunday School Pre-K thru High School

We are looking for different ways to continue Sunday School during April if we are unable to hold classes at church. We may possibly email lessons and activities to our families. We also hope to have our children's Easter Program on Easter Sunday at the 10:30 service. We will be contacting our families with our ideas on how we can make this all work!

We ask for everyone's prayers for Pastor William and all of our Sunday School leaders as we navigate through this time. We pray for God's guidance and love, and ask that God gives us the strength, courage and wisdom to continue to share the good news of God's love and Word with all of our children, and we pray that we all open our hearts, eyes and ears to what God wants us to do.

## Easter Egg Hunt for the Community has been cancelled

We are cancelling the Community Easter Egg that was scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. We feel this is the right thing to do based on the current health crisis. Thank you to Susan Whalen for all of her great ideas and hard work in planning this event. Also, thank you to those who donated items for the eggs and to the youth who helped fill them. We appreciate your support and are coming up with some alternative ideas to use all of the donations.

## Easter Egg Tree for Wernle

We will be supporting Wernle Youth and Family for the month of April with our Easter Egg Tree. If you are unable to take tags from the tree and would like to help out, you can purchase the items and drop off at the church. Monetary donations and gift cards can also be mailed to the church.

There are tags with monetary amounts of \$5 and \$10. The money collected will go to a new program at Wernle - sponsoring a child's allowance. The kids at Wernle receive a \$5 weekly allowance that they can use or put into their private account. Our goal is to cover 1 year for





at least 1 child which totals \$240. Monthly sponsorship is \$20 and 6 months is \$120.

There are also tags for \$10 gift cards for McDonalds, Subway, Dairy Queen, Burger King, Wendy's and WalMart that are given to the kids at Wernle.

Jeremy Fox will also be collecting new or gently used clothing for teenage boys and girls along with items from Wernle's current needs list (body wash and shampoo for both genders, regular and no show socks for both genders, twin blankets, frisbees, wiffle balls & bats, kick balls, and spring jackets/windbreakers for both genders) for his National Honor Society Project during this time. He will deliver all items collected, the gift cards and check for Wernle.

Thank you so much in advance for everyone's support of this project. Our Zion family is always so generous in its support of our youth projects, and we are so grateful.

### **Lenten Dinner Thank Yous!**

Thank you to the youth and their families who helped with Lenten dinner on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We really appreciate our youth, their families and the Youth leaders to make these meals a delicious success. A big thank you goes out to those who made soup – Jeff Frank, Nicole Milek, Jayne Schrader, Laura Thompson, and Linda Tvorik. Finally, thank you to everyone who set up, donated food and desserts, helped to serve the meal and clean up afterward. We are so lucky to have such a great group at Zion that is always willing to pitch in and help!

### **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Akron Area Interfaith Council Interfaith Hunger Walk**

#### **From Akron Area Interfaith Council: WHY WALK?**

Food insecurity is an alarming issue in the Greater-Akron area. While we are making a difference through our collaborative efforts, there is still more to do to close the gap.

We hope all of our youth and families will join Zion's group on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the AAIC Interfaith Hunger Walk. Zion has been participating in this walk for the past several years. The Walk takes place at Community Christian Church on North Main Street in North Canton. Registration begins at 2 pm and the 2 mile walk starts at 3 pm. We will be collecting donations for the walk during the month of April. All donations will go to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. It is a fun family event with exercise, fellowship and service! Please sign up in Luther Hall and join Zion's group to support this worthwhile cause!

We ask that you pray that we all hear God's call to help feed the hungry!

### **Vacation Bible School: Week of July 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 13 - 17<sup>th</sup> this summer! Our youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to help during the week. We plan to have awesome lessons, games, crafts, guest speakers, service projects and a lot of fun and learning! We will need plenty of volunteers for the week! Please consider joining us one, two or all five days. It truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience with a great group of kids! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433 or email at [dfox521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfox521@sbcglobal.net). There will be much more information to come in May about our theme and schedule, and we will have registration packets ready mid- May. We hope you will join us!



The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

—*Psalm 23*

# Something Important to Think About



Imagine this scenario. There is a family gathering for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal celebration. Coming to this year's celebration is a new in-law.

Cousin Kevin met and married his college sweetheart while studying and then working in South Carolina. This is their first trip home as a married couple, so Faith is meeting most of the relatives for the first time at this meal. Sadly, Kevin's uncle Brad will most likely not be coming to this feast. In recent years, Brad has been withdrawing from the family and just doesn't come to family functions anymore.

The family comes up with a brilliant idea – Faith!! Faith can reach out to Brad and surely Brad will be impressed that the family missed him so much that they would send their new in-law to go and visit Brad and find out why he is not coming to family gatherings anymore.

Now that they think of it – there are a few more cousins that have slipped off the radar. If Faith would just go and visit them – surely our Thanksgiving table would be filled again with people and even more food as all would bring something to contribute!

You know where I am going with this ... who do you think would make a larger impact on Brad? I'm sure that Brad would be kind to Faith when she visited, but wouldn't it mean a lot more to Brad if he felt missed by the family, concern from the family, accepted by the family, listened to by the family? If Brad needs an apology – wouldn't it mean more to be given by a member of the family than the new in-law? And what if Brad needs forgiveness, or acceptance?



I hear it time and again when my clergy clients take a new call. "Now if you just go and visit all our inactives and get them to come back, then we will be able to afford you" or something like that. There is so much wrong with the end of that last quote but let me get to the bottom of this issue.

When people have left the church for one reason or another – what is the goal? To get them back? To hear their hurts? To understand their frustrations? To reconnect them with the family? To bring them back into relationship with the community of God as it exists in your congregation?

Think about this, REALLY think about this. Pastors come and go but the congregation, for the most part, stays the same. What would have the greater impact on getting someone to come back – one of you who know him/her, who misses him/her? Or this newcomer to the community who has been given a list of people she should contact?



But, but, but...you say...their beef was with the previous pastor. Wouldn't it make sense for them to meet the new pastor and see that she is different than the other one? Again...think about it...wouldn't it mean more for this person to hear from a member of the congregation that, "hey, we've got a new pastor and she is great! We would love to have you come back and join us again. You don't have to stay, we just miss you and really would love you to see how things are going in our church now, in your church, and we would love for you to come and meet the new pastor."

Now some pastors are indeed very extroverted and have the time and energy to make a ton of initial visits, that is great, but even there – if the goal is to have people come back, there is nothing more important than for those of you who know that individual already to reach out. And if "peopling" is hard for you, send a note. Therein lies the kingdom of God – in that relationship – in being missed by one who knows you.

Realize, too, that even with such effort, there are those who will not return for whatever reason. That is ok. The Spirit knows where they live and will blanket them with love. The reaching out to them is not only for them, but it is for you. For as you make the effort to reach out, you are indeed being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus, and there are blessings inherent in allowing yourself to be used in that way by God.

So if you want the inactives back, invite them – yes you, you there...and reap the blessings that come with reaching out. The table is full. The banquet is ready. Now feast!

Blessings!

*Barbara Solsaa*

Barbara Solsaa, PCC  
Professional Christian Life Coach  
ClergyLifeCoaching.com  
<http://meetme.so/BarbaraSolsaa> (to make an appt.)







Palm Sunday concludes our 40 day Lenten journey. It recognizes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and is marked by words of praise and adoration for the God who came to save us.

Sadly, that joy is short-lived as we recognize the reality of what awaits Jesus after his final entry into Jerusalem; the cross, for our sake.

Before we celebrate the Resurrection, we are called to remember that Jesus' suffering and death demonstrates God's love for us.

We experience this through Holy Week services; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Unfortunately, participation in these vital worship experience has waned over the decades.

In response, the church began to couple the joy of Palm Sunday with the passion of Christ's arrest, persecution, and death.

We will uncouple these two significant events in the life of Christians; thus bringing us an opportunity to walk closer with Jesus.

You are encouraged to fully participate in this most significant part of the church year; immersing ourselves in Holy Week services – we look forward to being with you at both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.

**MISSING**



**MISSING**

Have you noticed the baskets are missing at the beginning of buffet tables and near the coffee pots on Sunday?

There's good reasons for this:

1. We recognize that some people feel uncomfortable coming to meals held here or participating in coffee social time because their finances prevent them from placing money in the basket.
2. We recognize Jesus' call to feed the hungry.
3. We feel it is a regular cost of being church to provide coffee and food for all our members and neighbors regardless of their ability to pay.
4. We, who can afford it, commit to increasing our Sunday morning giving by the value of the food and drinks provided for us.

Thank you for caring for others in way that does not prevent participation by all.



**Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday and proceeds through the four days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. This is the defining season of Christianity and you are encouraged to grow closer to your Savior by fully participating in all four worship experiences.



**Palm Sunday, April 5 at 8:00 and 10:30 am**

On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry in to the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We follow his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross.

**Worship Pattern:** we gather outside the worship space, hear the reading of Jesus' entry, and then joyfully process into the worship space waving our palms and singing God's praise.



**Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm**

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes with the words of Jesus' new commandment (*madatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At the service conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.<sup>1</sup>

**Worship Pattern:** we gather in the Fellowship space to experience the Living Last Supper and join with First Communicants in receiving Christ's body and blood. Service concludes with procession to the worship space and the solemn gesture of stripping the altar area.



**Good Friday, April 10 at 7:00 pm**

On this night, the journey continues through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to before this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live.<sup>1</sup>

**Worship Pattern:** we gather in silence, pray for one another, hear God's Word, glorify the cross, and nail our worries and concerns to the cross.



**Resurrection Sunday, April 12 at 8:00 and 10:30 am**

Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On this day, we rejoice anew. Easter is the day of all days. The tomb could not keep Jesus. As Christ is risen, we too shall be raised. Come, join with all the faithful across the world as we raise our voices in triumphant song and share the meal of Holy Communion which Christ set before us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He's Risen indeed! Alleluia!

<sup>1</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Leaders Desk Edition, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2006

## Pastor's Ponderings April, 2020



“What will it take to grow this congregation?” I’m glad you asked.

First, it’s good because that means you care; care about each other, care about this place, care about our neighbors, and care about those who don’t yet know about how much God loves them.

Second, it’s good because you understand what it means to grow. Of course we’re not talking about growing larger. We all know that attendance is not the true measure of a congregation’s growth. Jesus wants us growing as disciples; learning, going, telling, and inviting others into relationship.



So, this month, I’m pondering what qualities one might find in a congregation that is growing in Christ. Perhaps it might be a place...

- ...where talk about others is of how good they are, how much they do for others, and how much they enrich our lives.
- ...where greeters are encountered all over the building. They’re found in the parking lot, at the doors as they open them for others, in the halls as they invite participation in classes and social events, in the pews as they ask permission to sit next to guests or people they don’t know well.
- ...where people brag and tell stories about the positive aspects of their congregation to others in the community and to their circle of friends outside of church.
- ...where folks are excited and enthusiastic, where there is a palpable charge in the air, where smiles are contagious, and adults and youth gather in conversation together.
- ...where the path to the door is not a flowing exodus after the service, but groups of folks interact with one another across social circles; where breakfast/lunch/dinner invitations are extended to new folks each week.
- ...where people notice who is missing from church and call them because they’re concerned for their wellbeing or interested in their lives; like maybe that vacation they just experienced, or the family gathering they had, or the event to which they went for their children.



Hmm, lots to ponder. Won’t you take the time to choose what you can do to make more of these images happen in this growing congregation?

Next time, we’ll ponder how trust fosters growth.

Graciously, Pr. William

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## Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

## Sunday School Classes

(Adult Discussion) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.  
(Classes: All Ages) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas 330-412-4336  
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Secretary E-Mail: [vicki.givler@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.givler@yahoo.com)  
Praise Team Leader: Suzanne Walters 330-497-8996  
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox 330-966-2433  
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Fax Number 330-499-0801  
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis 330-494-6267  
Prayer Chain: Email [stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org](http://www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org)

