

Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Avenue South
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Phone 563-242-7391
www.zionlutheranclinton.org

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THE

COURIER

July 2020



It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself.

Galatians 5:13-14
("The Message" Bible paraphrase)



From
the desk
of...

Pastor Mark Luepke

“Besides Worship, What Else?”

While a large part of our “messaging focus” at and from Zion in these last weeks has been in regards to our worship life and its resumption, it’s important that we touch base on some of the other ministry aspects of Zion’s life – and how they have been affected by the covid-19 pandemic and the safety measures taken to counter it. So, after a brief worship note, that is what I intend to lift up in this article.

First, while we have resumed “in-person” worship services at our usual Saturday and Sunday times, we are still encouraging individuals to be careful and wise in their decision about “showing up.” While precautions are being taken in both building preparation and worship practices, the safest way for many to worship with us will still be (for a while, anyway) via the radio and/or our video livestream and recorded services. And please know, following Bishop Burk’s strong request, we will not be sharing the Lord’s Supper for some time yet.

But what about Zion’s other service, education and fellowship ministries and gatherings? There is no question that they have been greatly curtailed since the middle of March. The health safety measures that have been put in place put an end to this spring’s children and youth ministries of Faith FUNdations and confirmation instruction. Our First Communion instruction time was scrubbed. Choirs have been suspended. Women’s Circle meetings, Wednesday Morning Prayer, book clubs, support groups, and committee meetings have not been held. While a good effort was made to provide a “Second Sunday Supper” carry out meal in May, due to low response numbers and health concerns, this too has now been suspended.

With hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities prohibiting any visitors, my visitation ministry has been reduced to some phone calls and notes. And not being able to converse with folks before and after worship and other times around here, I wonder how many ministry opportunities may have been missed because I wasn’t even aware of a need. (Please never assume that “the Pastor should know that I want to be visited or contacted.” The only way that I know of your desire in this regard is if *you* contact *me*.)

In regards to in-person hospital visitation, some modest relaxation of visitation restrictions are currently being made. However, for your safety, I will not be making in-person visits without your specific request. In regards to committees, the Council has given committee chairs their blessing to suspend meetings for now or to call meetings when they feel a need – and to do so in-person and/or by remote means. In regards to Circle groups, Wednesday Morning Prayer, the pre-service Saturday Bible study, and gatherings like these, I would strongly suggest that these be put on hold at least through the summer – and then we can re-evaluate. (This is pretty much our working policy for “outside groups” (i.e. scout troops, cancer support group, etc.) that use Zion’s building: meetings/gatherings will be suspended at least for the summer.)

Vocal choir? With singing noted as a “close proximity risky behavior,” there will definitely be some changes for the near future.

We are anxious (as I’m sure that many teachers, students, and parents also are!) to see what plan the school systems in the area settle on for the fall. I am suggesting that we wait to see what the schools will be doing before we implement a Faith FUNdations and confirmation instruction plan for the fall. Will we be offering Christian education opportunities for our children and youth? Yes! We just don’t yet know how (or in what form) this will be done. (This “not knowing” aspect has been one of the toughest parts of this pandemic and the mitigation efforts, hasn’t it?)

There are certainly areas of our ministry that this article has not addressed. That said, if you have a particular question, ask the leader of the particular group or ministry in question or contact me.

The peace and health of the Lord be with you!

Pastor Mark Luepke



In-person worship services are offered: **Saturday evenings at 5:30 pm.**
(masks are required for this service.)
Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am.
(masks are encouraged at this service)

Radio Broadcast is at 10:30 am on KROS 105.9 FM or 1340 AM.

If you are unable to listen when aired, podcasts are available at krosradio.com/podcasts
(Zion’s podcasts are at the bottom of the podcasts page.)

Video of in-person services are offered via Facebook (Livestream) and on Zion’s website (www.zionlutheranclinton.org)

Now You Can Watch Zion’s Worship Service

While the radio broadcast of our weekly Sunday morning worship services on KROS (1340 AM & 105.9 FM) at 10:30 am continue to be greatly appreciated by many, we also now provide video of the service through Facebook and Zion’s website (www.zionlutheranclinton.org). Both the radio and online video services are continuing even with the resumption of “in person” worship services.

Zion Child Care & Preschool

Our school year has come to an end!! It wasn't quite as we planned, but we made the best of it!! Our preschool classes spent part of March and all of April and May learning online and also through packets that the teachers put together. It's something we never expected to have to do, but everyone made it happen!!

Our 3 year olds did a farewell drive thru to say goodbye to all of their teachers. It was fun to see everyone!

Our 4 year olds did a drive thru graduation and the teachers were also available for the day to take photos with the kiddos in their cap and gown. So adorable!! We really missed having our traditional ceremony. We were so sad to have to say goodbye!! We wish you all the best in Kindergarten.

Child care and summer camp has a fun summer planned. As of right now, we are not able to take any field trips, but hopefully that will soon change! We are taking it one month at a time.

Our preschool registration for the 2020/2021 school year has started. In order to attend our 3 year old program, the child must be 3 by September 15, 2020. Our 3 year olds meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday each week. In order to attend our 4 year old preschool program, children must be 4 by September 15, 2020. All children that live in Iowa and are 4 years of age qualify for the 4 Year Old Voluntary Preschool Grant with the CCSD and State of Iowa -tuition is FREE! Please let us know if you would like a space! 243-9393

Have a great summer!!!!

Kelly Bork, Director



Pork & Sauerkraut Supper 2020: Postponed

The year 2020 has been unlike any that any of us can remember. The covid-19 pandemic and the efforts to mitigate its spread has caused much in our lives to be changed and different from “the usual.” It is with regret that another “usual” event in the life of Zion Lutheran Church – our September Pork and Sauerkraut Supper – is going to have to be indefinitely postponed.

With the great number of people needed to pull this event together, as well as the many hours of working side-by-side that this entails, this service and fellowship event would simply not provide a safe and healthy environment for anyone – especially for those who are most vulnerable in regards to age and health status (a major portion of the Supper work crew). Additionally, gathering people to eat together in the Dining Room simply cannot be done with the social distancing required to keep individuals safe. The option of just doing take-out dinners also entails social distancing logistical problems – both for the preparer and the consumer.

No one is happy about this decision. But we trust that all will understand the need for it. A re-scheduled date will not be contemplated until the extent and scope of the pandemic timeline is better understood.

ZION'S BOOK CLUB

The book club will NOT meet until we feel that we can come together safely.

USING ZION'S LIBRARY

Since our library is a “serve yourself” kind of library, there's no reason to be closed. If you are a new user of the library, most of the books are novels, labeled with a #1. The other categories are listed on the wall by the checkout desk. Write your name and the date you check out the book on the card and place it with the other cards on the desk. (By the way, those cards are sorted by the number at the top of the card.) Books may be kept until you finish reading them! Return the books to the box on the floor next to the desk. Simple, right? Happy reading!

NEW BOOKS FOR JULY, 2020

Running Away to Home by Jennifer Wilson is the true story of her family's 2008 stay in her ancestral, mountainous home in Croatia. “For several months they lived like locals: from milking the neighbor's cows to eating roasted pig on a spit to desperately seeking the village recipe for bootleg liquor. As the family struggled to stay sane (and warm), what they found was much deeper and bigger than themselves.” Donated by Nancy Luepke.

Whatever It Took, by Henry Langrehr and Jim DeFelice, is Mr. Langrehr's memoir of escape, survival, and heroism in the last days of WWII. Langrehr, a 95-year-old Clintonian, is one of the few surviving members of the 82nd Airborne that parachuted into France on D-Day. He was captured and imprisoned in a Nazi work camp, but orchestrated an escape. The title of the book refers to doing whatever it took, both good and bad, to remain alive. Donated by Larry Ketelsen.

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – May 12, 2020

(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)

In light of needed safety precautions due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Council met in the Dining Room in a combination of in-person and Zoom video.

Pastor shared the stress and uncertainty of the last few weeks and the changes it has brought to the ministry. Pastor thanked Erin Montgomery for the work she has done on the video of Sunday worship.

Treasurer's report: With initial considerations being brought by Zion's Childcare/Preschool Board, Skip Carstensen presented the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) forgivable loan in the amount of \$124,500 to be used for salaries and utilities for the childcare/preschool and church in an eight week period. Jim Pillers made a motion to accept the loan and Linda Dutchess seconded with the understanding that any unused monies will be returned. All voted in favor.

Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly has been rescheduled to August 7, 2020. A new Bishop will be elected at that time. Two new voting members from Zion will need to be elected by the Council.

An Audit Committee will require three people to review our financial books. Myrna Neumann will be asked to conduct the audit and Jurgen Duhr and Dave Meade have agreed to participate.

Zion's re-opening to in-person worship was discussed at length. Zion's insurance company was contacted and they require that we follow the CDC requirements. It was noted that many congregations in Iowa are waiting until June to open. There was a lengthy discussion on how to open in the safest possible way and the need for us to have a plan.

Skip Carstensen made a motion for a plan to be developed and presented to the Council at our June meeting to make sure we are ready. Heather Bahnsen seconded. Travis Morehead asked the motion be amended to not waiting until the next meeting but to call a special meeting for a vote when we have a plan in place for cleaning and safe worship procedures. Pastor Luepke seconded. All were in favor.

A sub-committee for in-person worship practices and a sustainable cleaning protocol for our facility, especially on weekends, was formed with the following people participating: Erin Montgomery, Heather Bahnsen, Deb Vath, Pastor Luepke, Linda Dutchess, Judy Carstensen, Shirleen Jackson and Pat Hoffman

A Prayer for Our Nation this Independence Day

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FINANCIAL CORNER

May 2020 at a glance

General Operating	May	Year To Date
Income +	\$24,080.14	\$132,317.91
Expense -	\$24,912.43	\$136,350.04
Difference =	-\$832.29	-\$4,032.13

Current Mortgage Balance 05/31/2020: \$61,563.93

In May, Zion paid \$7,000.00 toward the mortgage retirement. We paid \$256.15 in interest and \$6,743.85 against the principal. We expect to pay off the loan before December 31, 2020.

Maintenance Help Needed

The Buildings & Grounds committee is looking for people who have skills and experience in maintenance tasks to assist in projects over the summer. The following assistance is needed for projects in the church as well as the child care.

- ◆ Plumbing skills
- ◆ Electrical skills
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Small carpentry jobs
- ◆ Laying vinyl flooring
- ◆ Shrub trimming
- ◆ Help cleaning up after projects are completed.



If you can help at any time over the summer please contact Wayne Van Note at 563-357-9951. Any and all help is appreciated!

Possible Covid-19 Symptoms

As you consider the possibility of re-joining others in a worship gathering, please (for the sake of yourself and others) appraise your risk factors and your current health status.

Covid-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. These symptoms may include:

fever or chills	cough	shortness of breath	difficulty breathing
fatigue	muscle aches	body aches	headache
sore throat	congestion	runny nose	nausea
vomiting	diarrhea	new loss of taste or smell	

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ZION'S STAFF

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◆
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music@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.