

Zion Lutheran Church  
439 3rd Avenue South  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
Phone 563-242-7391  
www.zionlutheranclinton.org

Vol. 90 No. 6

THE

# COURIER

June 2020



*O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope.*

*Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance.*

*Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance.*

*Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination.*

*Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.*

*All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

From  
the desk  
of...

**Pastor Mark Luepke**

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

June 9, 2020

The last time we gathered together in worship within Zion's sanctuary was the weekend of March 14/15. However, even on that weekend, as information was starting to be more widely shared about the spread of the coronavirus, worship attendance was considerably less than usual. Just a couple of days later, we received the order to "shut down" our gatherings in order to assist in slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

While Iowa's governor lifted the worship gathering restriction in early May, (albeit with restrictions), most congregations in the state were hesitant to resume in-person worship services – for the sake of caring for the health of their congregants and their communities. These past weeks have been filled with deliberations about and preparations for safely resuming in-person worship gatherings.

While we now have plans in place to resume our in-person worship services as safely as possible, each individual will still need to make the decision for themselves and their family members as to if and when they feel it is safe for them to return. If you (or a loved one who lives with you) are in an "at-risk" category of life and health (due to your health status, age, etc.), please do what you need to do to keep yourself and others healthy. As we have learned in these past few months, it is possible to worship the Lord together while being apart! (We will continue our radio broadcast and Facebook livestream.)

This said, we know that there is a blessing in being able to physically gather together in worship. So, **Zion Lutheran Church will be "open" to in-person worship this weekend of June 13 & 14 – 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.** However, as has been noted earlier, there will be some "differences" when we gather together.

Here is what you need to know in regards to how things will need to be for a while at Zion in order to do what we can to care for one another and keep each other well. (It is assumed that everyone knows that one should not come to worship if one feels ill.)

- 1) Please practice "**social distancing**" (maintain six feet between you and non-family members) from the time that you exit your vehicle until you get back in your vehicle.
- 2) The CDC encourages the use of **cloth face coverings** (masks), especially when social distancing is difficult. These face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. We recognize that some are hesitant about gathering with others who are unmasked, while others may have difficulty wearing a mask. Wanting to do what we can to provide choices and to welcome *all* to worship, we are **requiring masks to be worn at the Saturday evening service**, while **encouraging them at the Sunday morning service**. (Masks will be available at Zion for those who may not have one; they are in baggies in the narthex and are yours to keep.)
- 3) **Hand sanitizer** will be available in both the narthex and the Gathering Space; however, you may wish to bring your own. **Coats or jackets** should be taken into the sanctuary with you.
- 4) The **building and sanctuary** furnishings will be cleaned after/before each worship gathering. Parts of the building will be "off limits" as we gather to worship.
- 5) The **hearing assist devices** available from the ushers will be cleaned, disinfected, and new earpads will be fitted after each worship service.

6) The **children's room** at the rear of the sanctuary will not be open for use, nor will children's activity bags be available.

7) While the **children's sermon** will still take place, the children will stay in their pew with their family.

8) **Worship bulletins and children's bulletins** will be spread out on tables in the narthex for you. (Children will need to bring their own writing utensil or crayons.) Whereas Saturday worshippers have many times "recycled" their bulletin for use on Sunday morning, any "used" bulletin should now be taken home after worship.

9) The **offering plates** will not be passed during the worship service. They will be located at the entrances to the sanctuary so that you can place your offering in the plate before or after worship.

10) To maintain social distancing, every other pew will be closed. Within the open **pews**, please maintain at least a six foot distance between you and your fellow worshipper. However, this does not apply to family members; they may sit together. (To aid in minimizing cleaning time on Saturday evening, the Saturday worship service seating will initially be only on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.)

11) All of the day's **hymns and songs** will be printed in the bulletin. Worship books, pew pads, offering envelopes, and pens have been removed from the pews.

12) Please be mindful of the fact that **singing** can increase the spread of aerosol particles (the droplets from one's mouth). While one option is to not sing at all, other options presented are to sing only while masked, sing "quietly," or make sure that you are at least 10-12 feet away from others if you are going to sing.

13) **Greeting** one another and **sharing the peace** within worship should be done in non-physical ways, while maintaining distance. Also, any **socializing** after worship should take place outside of the building, while still respecting social spacing guidelines.

14) Worshippers will be **ushered out** at the end of the service. When Holy Communion is not a part of the worship service, ushering out will begin from the back of the sanctuary and work towards the front, in order to minimize physical contact when making one's way down the aisles. When Holy Communion is offered within the service, it will take place at the very end of worship, with individuals being ushered out from the front and then making their way out of the sanctuary via the hallway that parallels the sanctuary. The ushers will guide you.

15) While we may not offer **Holy Communion** immediately when we return to in-person worship services, there will be changes in our distribution practices when we do so. These will be explained at that time.

16) For those who are used to "remembering your baptism" by touching the water in the **baptismal font**, know that the font will be dry for now.

17) For the Saturday evening service, women are asked to use the "Family **Restroom**" located off the coatrack hallway near the sanctuary. (This will aid our custodian in regards to the time needed to get ready for Sunday morning's service.)

Obviously, our worship practices will be refined, adjusted, and somewhat "normalized" as time goes on. But for now, we'll follow the above procedures in order to help each other (as well as our greater communities) stay healthy and well.

It should also be noted that while we are resuming in-person worship services, most other activities and meetings within the building will not yet be resuming – unless and until you are notified otherwise.

May the Lord continue to bless our times of worship together – whether our togetherness is in person or it is in spirit. Hopefully, it will ALL be in the Spirit!

*Pastor Mark Luepke*

# Zion Child Care & Preschool

May 4-8 we celebrated our child care and preschool staff with teacher appreciation week! Zion is really blessed with the best!! Our teachers are kind, patient, hardworking, dedicated,.....the list goes on and on!! Even in this COVID19 pandemic, they still show up and provide loving and quality care!!

I would love to introduce our staff:

Assistant Director: Mary

Infant Room: Sidney, Melinda, Randi

2's Room: Kristina, Deb, Taylor

3's Room: Estela, Kim, Nikki

4's Room: Brooke, Britta

School Aged: Macy

Kitchen: Kayla

Break Person: Katie

3's Preschool: Joan, Jennifer, Karen

4's Preschool: Deb, Stephanie, Samantha, Jessica

Child Care/Preschool Sub: Dawn

School District Staff: Molly, Kim, Janelle



We are so fortunate to have such wonderful individuals that make up our Zion team! One week is just not enough to thank them for all that they do!! We started the week with a flower on Monday; Tuesday we had breakfast provided; Wednesday we had a great lunch; Thursday and Friday we had leftovers and some other snacks. It was a great week!!

**Our preschool registration for the 2020/2021 school year will soon be starting. 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 which makes tuition FREE! Please let us know if you would like a space!**

**You can reach us at 563-243-9393**

**Kelly Bork, Director**



# Financial Peace University Online

Many of us feel like we are living in the Twilight Zone with all that is happening regarding the coronavirus and the social distancing. One of the ways that makes the whole situation difficult is if you have been living paycheck to paycheck and now one spouse or family member is not receiving that check. Financial Peace University will guide you and show you how to get out of that rut and to survive during tough times.

Whether you want to prepare for income changes or reach your money goals, Financial Peace is the program that teaches you how to:

- pay off debt
- budget
- save money
- give generously

You can watch the 9 video lessons online and have access to FPU material for a year by signing up online at [www.daveramsey.com/fpu](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu). The cost is \$129, paid with debit card or direct payment. By taking the course online, you will have the latest and updated information, plus you can participate from the comfort of your home. By including your children in the viewing and discussion of the video lessons, you will provide a learning experience that could last a lifetime. If you have any questions, call Diane Cassaday at 243-3416.

# Class of 2020

So many things have been changed, postponed or cancelled in the last few months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For instance, Zion's high school graduates would normally be recognized within a Sunday morning worship service and during our fellowship time. That recognition hasn't yet been able to take place!

However, we do want to lift up our graduates to honor their achievement, recognize this milestone in their lives, and pray for them as they move into a future that holds many unknowns and blessings.

We congratulate and pray for the following Zion members who have graduated from high school this year.

Kaylee Camp	Clinton	Ann Kinkaid	Camanche
Alexandria Dinning	Clinton		
Grace Eggers	Clinton		
Anna Hilgendorf	Clinton	Joseph Simpson	Fulton
Joshua Riessen	Clinton	Blake Werner	Fulton

*(If we have missed anyone, please contact the church office.)*

# COUNCIL NEWS

**Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – March 10, 2020**  
*(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)*

Pastor Mark shared a letter that he sent the Clinton Community School District Superintendent, Gary DeLacy, and the Clinton Principals encouraging them to honor the longstanding history of keeping Wednesday evenings free of scheduled school activities.

Pastor Mark discussed changes that have been incorporated in the physical building and anticipated changes in practices during worship to address health concerns during this unprecedented illness season.

The February 2020 Statistical Update was reviewed. During the report month there were five funerals/memorial services, one baptism and two special services. Average weekend worship attendance for February was 196.

Pastor Mark made a motion to accept the “transfer in” of Dawn Dobson (from LCMS congregation in Wisconsin). All voted in favor.

Skip Carstensen treasurer’s report (including the General Fund, Special Funds, Forward in Faith and Special Funds financial statements) was reviewed and approved.

President Cassaday requested volunteers to review Specials Funds and eliminate and/or add “fund” lines as appropriate. Jurgen Duhr and Deb Vath agreed to work with Skip to bring a recommendation back to the Council.

The committee reports were accepted.

Jim Pillers reported that the next step for the Governance Taskforce was to prepare constitutional and bylaws amendments for Council to review. Committees have been asked to review the existing definitions and duties of their individual committee, compare to what the committees are currently doing, and bring suggestions for updated language and/or changes back to the Governance Taskforce.

Pastor Mark updated the new Council members to the function of the Ministry & Mission Taskforce (Pastor Mark, Travis Morehead, Barb Rhoades, Deb Vath, Diane Cassaday). One identified area of focus was to provide a better/different digital presence. The Taskforce communicated with Clinton Community College to explore the possibility of a student internship. However, the needs of Zion and the available students did not match up for the Spring, 2020 internships. Zion has made application to host an internship next year (Spring, 2021).

President Cassaday reported that the American Red Cross has asked if Zion could be used as a Disaster Assistance Facility. Diane has suggested that the Red Cross walk through our facility to determine if it will meet their needs. We are awaiting a response from the Red Cross to schedule.

Diane Cassaday asked for a Council volunteer to serve on a security committee with Jim Rhoades and Dave Schwartz to research security cameras for Council approval to be purchased from the Greatest Needs fund. Travis Morehead volunteered to serve.

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in the summer of 2021 in Minneapolis, MN. Barb Rhoades, Carrie Luett and Jessica Hilgendorf have agreed to help organize this group.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

## March 2020 at a glance

General Operating	March	Year To Date
Income +	\$35,100.44	\$84,341.35
Expense -	\$24,945.05	\$86,521.56
Difference =	\$10,155.39	-\$2,180.21

### Current Mortgage Balance 03/31/2020: \$75,026.44

In March, Zion paid \$7,000.00 toward the mortgage retirement. We paid \$286.09 in interest and \$6,713.91 against the principal.

## April 2020 at a glance

General Operating	April	Year To Date
Income +	\$23,896.42	\$108,237.77
Expense -	\$25,541.05	\$112,062.61
Difference =	-\$1,644.63	-\$3,824.84

### Current Mortgage Balance 04/30/2020: \$68,307.78

In April, Zion paid \$7,000.00 toward the mortgage retirement. We paid \$281.34 in interest and \$6,718.66 against the principal. We now expect to pay off the loan before the February 22, 2021 mortgage date.

## 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 have also been working to provide video of the service through Facebook and Zion's website ([www.zionlutheranclinton.org](http://www.zionlutheranclinton.org)). Both the radio and online video services will continue even after we resume "in person" worship services.

## 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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◆  
**Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician**  
music@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆  
**Patrick Hoffman, Custodian**

### OFFICE HOURS

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