

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

Vol. 90 No. 4

THE

# COURIER

April 2020

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## *A Prayer of Hope*

*Dear Lord, You are the Creator,  
the Father, the Life Giver,  
our Light and our Hope.  
During this time of uncertainty  
and fear, we ask you to  
light our path that  
all humankind will  
shout of Your Glory.  
Amen*

# *A Message from Pastor Mark Luepke*

## **“Worship, Prayer and Coronavirus Reflections”**

I am writing this article on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. I do so knowing that you will be reading these words several days later. With the incredible pace of the changes in our world and lives in these past few weeks, I don't know how relevant these words are going to be! It's hard to keep up with things right now, isn't it?

In regards to the worship and activity life of Zion Lutheran Church, we are in a state of suspension. So much of who we are and what we do – at least corporately and together – is on hold. This said, I am so grateful for Zion's radio ministry and the relationship we have with the folks at KROS – 1340 AM and 105.9 FM. (Did you know that Zion has been broadcasting a Sunday morning worship service on KROS since the early 1940's?) Even though, because of our efforts to stem the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are not currently able to physically worship together, we CAN worship together via the radio. (This ministry makes me further appreciate my dad's life-long work in the radio business.) I have heard from a number of you – and seen some pictures! – about our time of worship “together” on the radio on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was good to worship “with” you!

Although hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities have curtailed visitors – and you may have done so for yourself in your own home – and rightly so! – we can still visit and pray with each other over the phone and via email. Please let me know if you are in need of a “visit.” I have also been contacted by some members of the congregation who are willing to help with things like getting groceries or running important errands for those “at risk” folks who need to stay where they are. Let us know if you are in need of some assistance in this regard.

Personally, while most of what is happening with me with the covid-19 pandemic is primarily an inconvenience, I am greatly aware of so many who are directly and indirectly affected in ways that go beyond inconvenience. For instance, this morning I have been working with Jan Hurst's family to plan Jan's funeral service to be held on Wednesday. This is a service that now needs to be “family-only” at the funeral home – rather than us gathering as a community of faith in Zion's sanctuary, as certainly would have been Jan's choice.

Let us continue to lift up in prayer those who are ill, those who are grieving, and those who are frightened. We pray for health-care workers and care facility staff. We lift up the elderly and confined. We lift up business owners, employees, and workers who are concerned about their means of making a living. Teachers, administrators, students, and families with working parents and school-age children need to be on our prayer list. Travelers and those who had planned to travel.

We need to pray for our elected leaders and government institutions. Pray for medical researchers and scientists, as well as the staff of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. And this list of prayer needs and concerns just scratches the surface!

Per Governor Reynold's order, Zion's “in person” worship services have been suspended through Wednesday, April 1st. We don't know what will happen in the days after that. If the services of Holy Week and Easter are affected by this viral “shut down”, we will survive. It will just make the Easter celebration that much sweeter when we finally ARE able to get together! So, stay tuned.

The peace of the Lord – physical, spiritual, and emotional peace – be with you.

*Pastor Mark Luepke*

# Worship

## SERVICES

*(When able to resume)*

Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday mornings: 9:00 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDIES

*(When able to resume)*

Wednesday mornings: 9:00 a.m.

Saturday afternoons: 4:15 p.m.

## RADIO MINISTRY

**10:30 AM:** Worship on KROS  
105.9 FM or 1340 AM

\*\* During times when services are unable to be held at Zion, please worship “together” with us via our radio ministry on Sunday mornings.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### *April 4th & 5th (Palm Sunday)*

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66

### *April 11th & 12th (Easter)*

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

### *April 18th & 19th (Easter 2)*

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### *April 25th & 26th (Easter 3)*

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter: 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

## Uncertain Times

This is a time of great uncertainty for our country, state, city, church. Please know that we take the health and well being of our congregation very seriously. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak Zion had many activities & events scheduled. At this time, we are unable to have any certainty if these events will still be able to be held. Here is a list of some April events that had been scheduled and what we DO know at this point.

- Grief Share, Clinton’s Parkinson’s Support Group, and Gilda’s Club are not meeting until further notice. The River Chor performance that was scheduled for Apr. 19th has been cancelled. The Luther College Collegiate Chorale, scheduled for April 26th, has been cancelled.
- Kids Against Hunger (April 22nd) is still scheduled pending further notice.
- Other groups (i.e. Scouts) who use the building will not be meeting until further notice.

As more information becomes available, our office staff will do their best to keep you updated through Facebook, Zion’s website ([www.zionlutheranclinton.org](http://www.zionlutheranclinton.org)), KWQC TV 6, KROS radio, and mailings. Please use this time of social distancing to reflect, pray, and do what you can to help yourself and others.

# Zion Child Care & Preschool

We held our annual Iowa Kidsight Vision Screening last month with the Low Moor Lions Club. 106 children were screened and we had 9 children that were referred to an optometrist for further screening. This program was FREE to all of our kiddos.

Our 3's preschool classes start the month with a trip to the Sawmill Museum. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our main focus for the month will be on numbers (counting & recognizing).

Our 4's preschool classes held spring conferences March 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. They were working on a space unit this month, which is one of their favorites!



All of preschool had Spring Break from March 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>. Spring pictures, which were scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled for a time after classes resume.

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 old preschool meets 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

## Faith FUNdations

As you probably know, Faith FUNdations has been cancelled until April 15. Zion's policy has been to follow the schedule of the Clinton Schools. They are closed, so our program is closed. This includes any Confirmation program or activities as well.

Pastor Mark and the FF leaders will determine in April whether we will meet the last three weeks in April. We will keep you all informed. May we all pray for God's guidance.

## Offerings and Worship

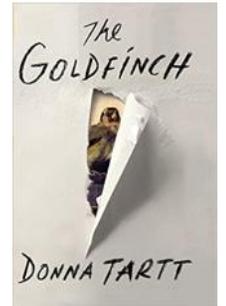
Not being able to physically worship together at Zion in these days of "social distancing" and "self-quarantining" is difficult at many different levels. We miss the blessings we both receive and share when we are physically present with each other in worship – i.e. Holy Communion, the sharing of Christ's peace, vocal and silent interactions with each other, etc. But, with the help of God, we will get through this!

One blessing that may be missed is the financial offering that you may have shared if you were present at Zion in a time of worship. Recognizing that Zion's ministry expenses continue even though we won't be gathering together, you are asked to remember the church in either your mailed-in or dropped-off offering or a "make-up" offering when we are able to physically get back together for Word and Sacrament. (This is especially important in light of the fact that a couple of "bad weather weekends" in January started our fiscal year in the red.) Thank you!

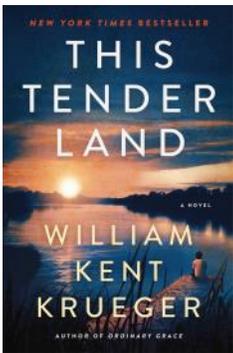
# YOUR LIBRARY

## ZION'S BOOK CLUB

The book club will (tentatively) meet in the library at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15th. We will discuss the novel ***The Goldfinch*** by Donna Tartt. Theo, a 13-yr.-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. He has an unbearable longing for his mother and he clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art. "It's a beautiful, stay-up-all-night and tell-all-your-friends triumph, an old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate." **Public library books are in Zion's library for checking out. Join us!**

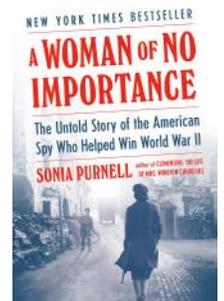


### NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL



***This Tender Land*** by William Kent Krueger is a novel that tells the 1932 story of Odie O'Banion, an orphan who is placed at the Lincoln Indian Training School where Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. Odie and his brother Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. They also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together they steal away in a canoe, heading for the Mississippi River in search of a place to call home. They venture into the unknown, crossing paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds.

***A Woman of No Importance*** by Sonia Purnell is the biography of an American who is the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helping to light the flame of the French Resistance and revolutionizing secret warfare. Virginia Hall established vast spy networks throughout France and called in weapons and explosives to arm the guerillas. Even when her face was on wanted posters and a bounty was placed on her head, she refused to evacuate. She finally escaped through a death-defying hike over the Pyrenees into Spain, but then she returned to France, convinced that she had more lives to save, and led the campaign to liberate much of France from the Nazis after D-Day.



## Second Sunday Supper

Second Sunday Supper for March was a huge success! We served bow tie spaghetti, lettuce salad, jello, bread, and poke cake. We provided a meal for at least 60 guests, and more than 20 Zion members helped set tables, make food, lead dinner prayer, serve, greet, drive guests, wash dishes, and put everything away. Our Zion family is awesome! These dinners take place because of our wonderful volunteers. We always receive many thank yous from our guests.

We are cancelling our April dinner. Our April 12 Second Sunday meal falls on Easter. Many of our guests said they wouldn't be able to attend on Easter. Many volunteers will be with family. So, there will be NO supper on April 12. We will be back on May 12 which is Mother's Day. We continue to care, share, and serve our neighbors.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

February 2020 at a glance

General Operating	February	Year To Date
Income +	\$26,423.08	\$49,240.91
Expense -	\$29,613.50	\$61,576.51
Difference =	-\$3,190.42	-\$12,335.60

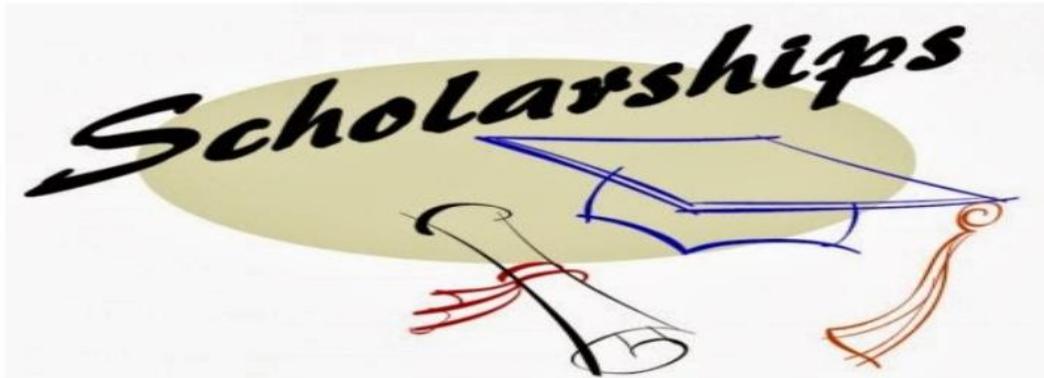
**Current Mortgage Balance 02/29/2020: \$81,740.35**

In February, Zion paid \$7,000.00 toward the mortgage retirement. We paid \$364.55 in interest and \$6,635.45 against the principal. We now expect to pay off the loan before December 31, 2020.

## ATTENDANCE

Weekend Worship Attendance:

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Feb 29 & Mar 1	75	120	195
Mar 7 & 8	80	130	210
Mar 14 & 15	32	98	130



Zion's Student Aid Committee is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

**Criteria:**

Membership in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Participation in Congregational Activities

Acceptance at an Accredited Institution of Higher Education

**Applications are available at  
the church office.**

**Due Date:**

**April 12, 2020**

# COUNCIL NEWS

## **Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – February 11, 2020** *(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)*

Pastor Mark handed out a portion of the Constitution dealing with the duties and responsibilities of the council. He reviewed the handout for the benefit of all members present and ended his remarks with a prayer.

The president welcomed new members of the council and thanked them for their participation.

Pastor informed the council of a new and revived ministry undertaken by Zion that is called “Grief Share Ministry”. Diane Dinning will lead the ministry. She previously led a similar ministry at First Methodist Church in Clinton. The Saturday sessions will be scheduled from March through May.

Membership actions approved by the Council are as follows: Transfers out: Andy, Tori and Bentley Toppert to Spring Valley Reformed Church, Fulton, Illinois.

Transfers in: Dan French from Zion Lutheran, Wilton, Iowa (ELCA); Kelsie French from Immanuel Lutheran, Camanche, Iowa (ELCA); Kevin Stoecker from Immanuel Lutheran, Charlotte, Iowa (LCMS); Transfer in or by “Affirmation of Faith” Mike, Sally and David Kremer from Jesus Christ Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Clinton; and transfer in or “Affirmation of Faith” of Barbara Kremer from the Roman Catholic Church.

Skip Carstensen gave the Treasurer’s Report consisting of the Operating Income and Expense Report, Forward in Faith Fund and the Special Funds Report. Skip noted that January giving was down – as was worship attendance with bad weather.

Jim Pillers reported on the Governance Task Force’s work. The GTF is requesting assistance from the council and committees prior to the next phase of the GTF’s work on Zion’s Constitution and Bylaws. A discussion worksheet was handed out to council members with a request to have each committee work through the worksheet and return to the GTF with their comments and suggestions.

The Red Cross has requested Zion consider becoming a Red Cross Disaster Assistance Facility for city wide emergencies. After discussion, it was decided that more information was required and that it would be prudent for a Red Cross representative to inspect Zion’s facility for appropriateness.

President Cassaday lifted up the Synod’s request for Zion to participate in a monetary appreciation gift as Bishop Michael Burk retires this year. The “gift” would be earmarked for (1) Fund for Leaders (a seminarian scholarship fund), and (2) ELCA World Hunger. The dates of March 14-15 were decided upon as Zion’s free will offering weekend for this giving opportunity.

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Clinton, Iowa 52732

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## ZION'S STAFF

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◆  
**Patrick Hoffman, Custodian**

### OFFICE HOURS

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