

Zion Lutheran Church
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CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES 6/17/2020

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
– *Philippians 4:5-7*

On Monday, June 15, Zion's council met to prayerfully plan for future ministry and events at Zion. I want to express my gratitude for the faithful service of the council members throughout the past months and for the prayers of the congregation as we have been led by and continue to seek God's guidance in these challenging times. At the conclusion of this letter is a schedule of upcoming events.

While we worship online, we have benefitted from the talents and service of Zion members and staff. We especially thank Catherine Germann for running the Zoom services; Norma Swain and Judy Atticks for regularly providing music; and Jeff Springer for recording piano music from our worship space. We also give thanks for the choir members, guest singers, and guest musicians who have served in online worship.

We thank all who continue to generously support Zion with tithes and offerings and all who are contributing to the WOW (Worship On Wednesday) offering which supports local outreach. Zion's staff and lay leaders continue to work faithfully on behalf of the church family. The office administrator keeps us connected through group emails and website updates. The financial secretary and treasurer continue to make deposits and pay our bills. Special cleaning projects are underway while we are out of the building. The office administrator and I monitor voice- and e-mails for prayer and need requests.

In his letter to the Christians in Philippi, the apostle Paul invites them to not give in to anxiety and fear. He counsels taking everything to God in prayer. I offer two catch phrases to remind us to live prayerfully:

“Handle with Prayer” & “ASAP” Always Say A Prayer

Paul also calls Christians to come before God with thanksgiving, remembering the many blessings we have already received from the Lord, most especially the forgiveness of sins and promise of eternal life we have through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Reminded of God's active love for us, we trust in His care for us and for all His children now and into the future. Living in the peace of Christ, we can bring Christ's peace and love into the world in which we live.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
Pastor Karin Pejack

Returning to 10:15am Sunday Worship in the Building on Sunday, August 9

A primary consideration in setting a date to return to in-person worship is the capability of providing online and call-in worship for those who are unable to join us. This date will allow us time to set-up the technology and to test the systems, before going live from the worship space. We continue to finalize plans for returning safely to in-person worship (monitoring CDC and other guidelines as they are updated) and will communicate details prior to returning to worship in the building.

Communion Schedule

Due to the delay in returning to in-person worship, communion will be offered during the following online services:

10:15am Sunday, June 21

12:10pm Wednesday, July 8

10:15am Sunday, July 19

Those wishing to commune during online worship are invited to intentionally prepare for communion prior to the start of the service. Prayerfully bring the elements of bread and wine or grape juice to where you will be worshipping. If you need assistance to obtain proper elements of bread, wine or grape juice, please contact the pastor. Since the fullness of the sacrament is present in one of the elements, you may commune with bread or wine/grape juice and simply bow in prayer as the other element is raised in worship. Please consume the elements or return them to the earth following the service. The bulletin will also include a prayer for spiritual communion for those who are not participating in distance communion. More information about distance communion is available on the church website.

WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) 12:10pm Online with 1st Wednesday Communion

Because a significant number of attendees work for the state government, this service will remain online via Zoom until a majority of state workers return to downtown Harrisburg offices. In July, communion will be offered on the second Sunday, July 8, due to Pastor Karin's vacation. Beginning August 5, communion will be offered on the first Wednesday of the month, returning to this worship service's regular communion schedule.

3rd Friday Fallout Shelter Inspirational Coffee House ZOOM PARTY!!!

Fridays, June 19 & July 17, 6:30pm—8:30pm

A joint event held by Rivers of Restoration Ministries and Zion Lutheran Church. A 3rd in the Burg Event usually held in Zion's lower level "Fallout Shelter," now a Zoom Party.

For those seeking spiritual refreshment at the end of the week, come join us for live music, poetry, prayer, and more. Online open mic opportunities for those wishing to share their talent in meaningful and uplifting ways. Details and invitation link are on the church website.

Worship at Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter on 2nd Sundays at 7:00pm

Resuming July 12

Pastor Karin and Todd Pejack and volunteers from Zion and St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Camp Hill bring a monthly worship service of Holy Communion to the Men's Shelter. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin

Worship on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat Sunday Morning, July 26

Christian Churches United organizes this ministry and is optimistic that services, with proper precautions, will begin in July. Pastor Karin is scheduled to lead worship on July 26. Zion's online 10:15am worship service on Zoom will take place with a supply preacher.

Annual Meeting Rescheduled

Sunday, September 27, following the 10:15am Worship Service

Upcoming Council Meetings

Mondays, July 27 & August 24 at 6:30pm