

Zion Herald

Issue 3

May/June 2020

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Would you like to be added to Zion's email list? Invitations to online worship services & special events and congregational updates are sent on a regular basis. Email the church office, zionhbg@comcast.net, to begin receiving church emails.

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

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

Weeks into a very different way of life, many of us are weary. For some, the transition to online work has brought seemingly endless days in front of a screen and on the phone. Parents and guardians are trying to support in the home their children's learning from math to gym class, encouraging healthy minds and bodies. Those who care for older relatives need to allow more time for errands—masked and waiting in line. Exhausted medical and essential workers continue on the job, often putting in extra shifts uninterrupted. Those who have been furloughed now worry about their next meal. Others are run down by fear and isolation. Almost all have prayed for a person suffering from COVID-19 or another illness, and some are grieving the deaths of loved ones without supportive community gathered around them.

Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-29, *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

What a welcome invitation! Jesus invites us to turn to Him and to remember all He has done for us. Through His death on the cross, we are forgiven for those times we have acted hurtfully out of anger and frustration, and for those times when we neglected to do the right thing. By His resurrection, He conquered death. Because He lives, we have the sure hope of eternal life with God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now. Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. This is true refreshment for our souls!

Currently, and at least through mid-July, Zion will continue to turn to Jesus online and over the phone through Zoom worship services (Sundays at 10:15am and Wednesdays at 12:10pm, and at the 3rd Friday Coffee House). All are invited to pray for and to uplift one another as best we can in this challenging time, trusting in Christ, our Rock and our Redeemer.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Karin

The article below is the tenth in a series about spiritual practices illustrated by stained-glass windows in our worship space. The articles were written as part of one of the classes in the Doctor of Ministry Program from which Pastor Karin recently graduated.

Martin Luther on Praying God's Word

And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

- Luke 2:47 English Standard Version



Amazed is not always the adjective that comes to mind when we think about reading the words of Jesus or reading all of Scripture. In the window of “The Child Jesus in the Temple,” we see faces reflecting wonder or deep pondering of the words of the young Savior.

Luther wrote instructions to his barber, Peter, on how to prayerfully engage the Word of God. “So, a good and attentive barber keeps his thoughts, attention, and eye on the razor and hair ... How much more does prayer call for concentration and singleness of heart.”

Luther goes on to give the example of a concentrated way of praying through the Ten Commandments. “I divide each commandment into four parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is, I think of each commandment as, first, instruction ... second, I turn it into a thanksgiving; third, a confession; and fourth, a prayer. “

Luther's “Four Stranded Garland” can be a guide to praying any passage of Scripture individually or as a group, like those pictured gathered around Jesus in the church window.

A Guide to Praying Scripture with Luther's Four Stranded Garland

Read a selected passage slowly four times.

First Reading: Listen for the instruction God is giving you.

Second Reading: Listen for something for which you would like to give God thanks.

Third Reading: Listen for a way in which you may have sinned against God. Confess to God.

Fourth Reading: Listen for people or situations for which God is calling you to pray.

Suggested Passages: Your favorites, Reading a Gospel or another book of the Bible a chapter at a time, a Psalm

Communicating during the time of COVID-19. We are sending **group emails** to provide updates. If you are not receiving the emails and would like to add your email address to this communication, please email the **church office (zionhbg@comcast.net)**. The **voicemail greeting for the church office (717-234-4064)** and the **church website (www.zionharrisburg.org)** are frequently updated. The church office voicemail and email (information above) are checked regularly. **Pastor Karin is available by phone, text, and/or email.** Contact the church office for details.

Assistance with Shopping for Supplies. There are members on the East and West Shores who have offered to pick up groceries, prescriptions, or other life-sustaining supplies for those in need. Contact the church office or Pastor Karin.

Zion's building will be closed through Mid-July. The council will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 16, at 6:30pm, to continue to assess future plans. While we are unable to meet in person, staff and lay leaders continue to work faithfully on behalf of the church family. The office administrator updates our website and keeps us connected through group emails. 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.

Church Offering. We thank all who continue to generously support ministry at Zion. Contributions can be mailed to the church office:

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Worship Services and Events via Zoom. Zoom allows for participation by computer and/or by phone. The information necessary to participate is being communicated by email, texts, phone calls, and regular mail prior to each service and event. The information is also available on the Zion's website. Beginning May 30, the most recent Zoom upgrade will be required for those participating online. If you need assistance to join these events, please contact Pastor Karin. Missed a service? Recordings of the Scripture readings and sermon are posted on the website.

Serving in Worship: Beginning Sunday, May 24, Catherine Germann will be managing the technology of the Zoom services. Pastor Karin continues to lead worship. Members and friends are invited to serve as lectors and to provide special music. Contact Pastor Karin to volunteer. Zion thanks Norma Swain and Judy Atticks for providing worship music and our soloists whose recorded material continues to provide anthems.

Communion on the Festival of Pentecost, Sunday, May 31, during 10:15am Worship

As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church, there will be an opportunity to commune during online worship. The sacrament is being celebrated in this manner solely due to emergency circumstances. Those who would like more details about theological considerations are welcome to reach out to Pastor Karin. 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.

Home and neighborhood gatherings for prayer, with proper social distancing are encouraged; especially meeting outdoors as summer weather comes! Devotional materials are available on the church website or can be mailed upon request.

PRAYERS IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Prayers written by Cathy Ammlung and revised by Pastor Karin Pejack. These are available for online streaming services, private devotions, mailings to congregants, etc.

Let us draw near the Throne of Grace, humbly beseeching God's mercy for all people in this time of suffering and fear:

Most holy God, you are the source of all goodness, wisdom, mercy, and life. If we never before knew how much we need those great goods – how much, rather, we need you – we know now. This isn't just about our private fears or personal concerns, nor only our church or community or nation. This is about every person on the face of this planet. How vulnerable we all are, gracious Lord! How interconnected we are – and not just by social media, party affiliation, or various identity labels. No, we're bound together by our common humanity and, through that, by the possibility of infection, illness, and death by a virus.

Father, bind us together by something even greater and stronger! Bind us together with "cords that cannot be broken," because they are forged by your Son as he hung on a bitter Cross for the sake of the whole world. Bind us together with him in a fellowship of suffering: suffering with, and suffering for, our sisters and brothers according to the flesh. Bind us together in a fellowship deeper than our differences and stronger than death. Bind us together in Christ, crucified and risen from the dead for the salvation of all.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

Bestow your Spirit of wisdom, understanding and might upon all who take counsel for the nations in this time of crisis. Give them every spiritual, moral, intellectual, and social resource they need to act for the good of the people entrusted to their care. Let them be courageous, competent, collaborative, and compassionate as they ponder what course to take.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

Thank you for the brilliant and dedicated scientists who seek to understand the infection's nature, to slow or prevent its spread, and to mitigate the suffering it causes. Thank you for doctors, nurses, and everyone from housekeepers to cooks, from dialysis and inhalation technicians to emergency room personnel, who are truly risking their lives for the sake of us all. We pray for all serving in relief work and essential work. Bless and strengthen them. Keep them safe from all harm – and grant them rest when they need it, for their own health's sake.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

We plead on behalf of the many people who are quarantined and isolated because of exposure to the virus; for everyone who is already ill; and for those who are at the greatest risk of severe illness or death. Hide them under the shadow of your wings, and grant them healing and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

Lord, give courage, patience, and ingenuity to everyone whose job or business is endangered by the quarantine and uncertainty. Help us to support one another, and to patronize, as we can, local small businesses in our community. Give lending institutions, landlords, and creditors the spirit of generosity and compassion, so that personal and communal suffering is not made worse by evictions, foreclosures, fines, and bankruptcies.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

Most gentle and gracious Father, we pray for families with children in these difficult days. Some have only one care-giver. Some are already stressed by things ranging from drugs to physical abuse, from illness of body, mind, or spirit to financial fragility. Lord, some of those households will be like pressure cookers, and the children might suffer most when it “blows.” Let your Spirit brood over those troubled waters. And give us eyes to see and hearts to respond as helpfully and often as we can.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

Forgive, enlighten, and cause salutary repentance among the ignorant and flippant, the malicious and careless, the heedless young and the “it can’t happen to me” folks of all ages. Give them common sense, Lord. Help us all to think beyond our own convenience (or lack thereof); our own risks or losses; our own plans or fears. Help us to think about the least of these, our Lord’s (and our) sisters and brothers, who are vulnerable in ways we really can comprehend with your help!

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

We pray for the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, and for our own little portion within it. Many of us cannot worship together or receive the Holy Sacrament, your own Medicine of Immortality. Many missionaries, pastors, priests, deacons and deaconesses, monks and sisters and lay religious, are unable to care for their flock – your flock – as they usually do. Keep us steadfast in faith, courageous in hope, and unflagging in charity. By the power of your most Holy Spirit, keep us united with your beloved Son, our common Lord and Savior, the Shepherd of our souls, and our Good Physician. Increase in us the hunger for your Word, for prayer, and for acts of forgiveness and compassion. Use us, as we are able, to further your purpose and will, and to share your unchanging love – especially among the poor, the ill, the struggling, the dying.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

We pray for everyone affected by this time of common suffering. Let our words, actions, and lives be as lanterns filled with the presence and love of Jesus. Let everything we say and do be signs of your grace and mercy. Lord, we are bold to pray: Redeem this time of pandemic, so that many hearts may be softened, and many lives may be overwhelmed by a flood of repentant faith in Jesus, their Savior, Lord, and God.

Lord, in your mercy, ***please hear our prayer.***

We know that other needs continue to be urgent, dear Father! We ask the Spirit’s help in remembering them before you.

Please add personal prayer petitions ...

Give thanks for blessings and answers to prayer ...

For the sake of your dear Son, we pray that you may heed all our prayers and graciously answer them in accordance with your will, to your glory and for the welfare of your people.

AMEN

Prayer List

Persons with acute need of prayer for physical and/or spiritual healing (upcoming surgery/procedure/tests; recovery from recent illness or surgery /procedure /tests):

Paul Bernard, Betty Cooper, Carol Dietrich, Dixie Geistwite, Kelly Grubbs, Deitra Jones.

Persons in need of prayer for long-term physical and/or spiritual healing: Tom Adamson, Sharon Barrow, Thomas Campbell, John Dietrich, Patrick Drisgill, Nancy Eshenour, Deb Eslinger, Jim Helman, Jim Jordan, Margret Jordan, Heather Kates, Susan Kichman, Ken Kline, Mary Koch, John Lundsted, Chase Michelsen, Mark Megoulas, Sonia Murphy, Hazel Noggle, Janice Pickering, Kasey Ramer, Pastor Neil Ray, Susan Rinehold, Josh Rohrbach, Sara Rohrbach, Danielle Saylor, Bill Shultz, Alex Sheaffer, Barbara Simpson, Charles Springer, Lien Ngoc Thieu, Bill Shultz, Matthew Straub, Sally String-Wilson, Bud Wisman, Judy Wisman, Marissa Wisman.

If you have asked that someone be placed on our prayer list will you please let us know when prayers have been answered or the need has changed. Please call or email the church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

Floyd String-05/23

Jackie Graybill- 05/25

Emma Daugherty-05/30

Sam Pejack-5/30

May Anniversaries

Robert & Wanda Haas-05/01

Larry & Jeanette Bortner-05/05

Bill & Janet Chultz-05/23

Floyd & Lois String-05/30

June Birthdays

David Reeves -06/08

Danielle Saylor-06/13

Anna Royer-06/15

Tuong Thieu-06/17

Kim Yunez-06/21

Harold Pacey-06/22

Adrian Robinson-06/24

Jeff Springer-06/26

June Anniversaries

Bud & Judy Wisman-06/30

July Birthdays

Robert Hass-07/03

Nathalee Kichman-07/04

Mark Haas-07/05

Lee Atticks-07/08

Patrick Drisgill-07/11

Margie Danko-07/13

Diane Calhoun-07/15

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays, continued

David Calhoun-07/23

Keith Eslinger-07/24

Eileen Marks-07/25

William Thieu-07/27

Michael Lavender-07/27

Steve Saylor-07/27

William (Trey) Tillet-07/28

Jeanette Bortner-07/31

July Anniversaries

David & Diane Calhoun-07/04

Several members and friends of Zion who are homebound or without family in the area are celebrating birthdays in the next months. Below are their names and addresses, if you would like to brighten their day with a birthday card.

Jackie Graybill (05/25)

100 Freemason Dr., Rm 1545

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Anna Royer (06/15)

5225 Wilson Lane

Maplewood Apt. 324

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Nathalee Kichman (07/04)

624 Wilhelm Rd, Apt. 53b

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Patrick Drisgill (07/11)

11 S. 19th Street

Harrisburg, PA 17104

Please pray for members and friends who have welcomed new additions to their families and for those who are grieving the deaths of loved ones.

Births

Callie Louise Moore (4/15/2020) Parents: Sara & Adam Moore, brother Patrick (baptized at Zion); Grandparents: Dave & Diane Calhoun

Nathaniel Lloyd Jones (5/1/2020) Parents: Bryce And VicMarie Jones; Grandparent: Deitra Jones

Jackson Robert Michel (5/15/2020) Parents: Andrew & Elizabeth Michel; Elizabeth's sister: Catherine Germann; Grandparents: Al & Marianne Germann

Deaths

Martha (Marty) Reeder (4/20/2020) age 97

Kathy Dunn (4/30/2020) age 72

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Fallout Shelter Inspirational Coffee House - ZOOM PARTY!!!

Friday, June 19, 6:30pm—8:30pm

For those seeking spiritual refreshment at the end of the week, come join us for live music, poetry, painting, and more. Online open mic opportunities for those wishing to share their talent in meaningful and uplifting ways.

Our 3rd Friday Fallout Shelter Inspirational Coffee House is a Zoom Party! The zoom invitation will be emailed a few days prior to the event and will be available on Zion's website. At our first Zoom Party in May, we were blessed with singing and sharing from favorites and first-timers. We welcome recorded music and presentations. Email Pastor Karin for details. Be uplifted and inspired from the safety of your home!

UPDATE from CACH—Capitol Area Coalition on Homelessness

Our Network of Providers Are Working 24/7 and Under Enormous Stress

There are "small" contributions we can all make to help!

"I may be late with this question, but does anyone know how the homeless are being considered right now? Are shelters still open?" - actual Facebook post

Downtown Daily Bread (DDB), The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region, Bethesda Mission, YWCA Greater Harrisburg, Shalom House, Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area, Brethren Housing Association (BHA) and other CACH Providers are still serving clients and those living on the streets.

Instead of congregate feeding where folks get squeezed into small spaces - DDB & the Salvation Army are now 100% take-away. So, the need for individually-packaged food items & bottled water has surged. And with this transition to take-away, DDB, Salvation Army, and Bethesda often give out extra non-perishable items with each meal - including blankets, hand sanitizer, personal care items, etc. Breakfasts are suspended at DDB & Salvation Army - but for now, are being served at Bethesda Mission.

Right Now - Agencies really need bottled water, individually-wrapped food items, canned goods, bath tissue (mister can you spare a roll?), travel-size sanitizer, latex gloves, surgical masks, and cash donations (most grants don't allow for discretionary spending, and right now the urgent purchasing needs can change by the hour).

And always - ALWAYS - **CALL AHEAD** to arrange time/place of drop-off.

If you are able, please support one or more of our Agencies & Organizations. Thank You & Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

The Zion continues to actively support many of the agencies and organizations listed in the article. We thank those contributing to the WOW (Worship on Wednesday) offering which is designated for local outreach, members of the Fellowship Class, and individual members who have generously contributing to these efforts to assist those in need.