



# Good News From Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace...

April 2020

## A Message from Pastor May

### The Corona Promise

The coronavirus gets its name from the fact that, when viewed under a microscope, each virus particle appears to have a corona, a halo, crown, a garland. Interesting...

This reminded me of an image from the prophet Isaiah. In the closing chapters of Isaiah's writing (Isaiah 56-66), Israel is in an interesting place. She stands back and looks at the new normal that she faces. Having been returned to their homeland as promised, they now face a future that looks far different than they expected. The visions of what they expected the future to be like are threatened by a new normal that is uncertain. In this time of uncertainty, Isaiah offers the promise of God to Israel.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah promises a garland as a symbol of hope as contrasted with the ashes of a forgotten past. The garland - the crown - is lifted up as a sign of God's promise to lift them beyond their former glory to a new hope. A hope that may be different than expected, but is a hope that far exceeds that for which they wished. Now Israel will be a light to the nations, not just a strong nation, but the means by which God's promises will be fulfilled to all nations.

I believe that God is at work right now, lifting us to a hope that is far greater than the ashes of our past. Please do not misunderstand, I AM NOT SAYING THAT GOD CAUSES COVID19!!! But God is at work in the midst of all forms of brokenness to bring hope and healing. Healing is one of the things that God does best! It may be difficult to see beyond this time of confusion, but God is with us. God sees us as we will become: decked in the garments of salvation, wearing the robe of Christ's righteousness.

Just like Israel many centuries ago, we stand before our future with God's promises illuminating a bright and hopeful future. It may be different than we imagined, yet the promise of God is that it will be far greater than we can imagine. In the end YOU shall wear the crown of God's glory, you shall bear the garland of joy. And nothing can separate us from God. Nothing will stop God from healing us all and bringing us at last into God's eternal glory.

Now that's a new normal I can live with!!!

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we continue to adjust to current social distancing requirements, regularly scheduled activities at the church and CEB are on hold. Sunday worship services are being recorded by Pastor May and the videos are being posted to Zion's Facebook page. Please visit [facebook.com/zionoldwick](https://facebook.com/zionoldwick) to view the videos.

In addition, Pastor May's Facebook Live broadcasts can be seen daily on the Facebook page at 11 a.m. These broadcasts are also being recorded for later viewing and posted to our YouTube channel, which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDkw6pQG6N3ltdJ3JcUvHmA>. Worship services are being archived on the YouTube channel as well.

As we will likely not be worshipping together during Holy Week, we are planning to send copies of the worship booklets in the mail to give members the opportunity to follow along with remote worship. Please watch your mailbox for this special delivery. If we are able to worship together after all, please bring your booklets to church with you!

Daily lectionary readings for the month of April can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. Please use this page as a resource for connecting with God during this time of distancing from one another.

### Congregation Council Highlights

The Council did not meet in March. Highlights of the February Congregation Council meeting can be found below.

- Members are reminded that there is no parking at the Magic Shop during store hours. Worshipers may continue to park at the Magic Shop on Sunday mornings.
- The Parish Life and Shepherding committees have created an Interest Form to encourage member involvement. The forms are being emailed to the congregation with the April newsletter.
- Faux painting of one window in the sanctuary is complete. The congregation will vote on March 8 on the issue of whether the windows will be painted off-white or painted in the faux wood-grain style. (The vote was taken on March 8, and the faux painting option was chosen.)
- The Director of Youth & Family Ministries job description has been updated and a committee is being formed to begin the search for a qualified candidate to fill the position.
- The Council reviewed "The Pastoral Call Process" document distributed by Vice President Helen Livingston. President Leah Wintemute will be placing a call to the Synod Bishop to discuss Zion's next step in the interim process.
- Thank you to Steve Surhoff for completing electrical work and the church and CEB.



The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, April 16. Meetings are open for all to attend.

### Endowment Committee News

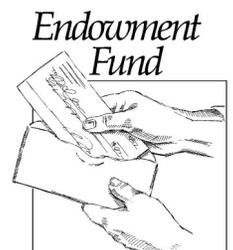
The Endowment Committee will be having our first Endowment Sunday for 2020 on Mother's Day, May 10. The other Endowment Sundays for 2020 will be on Father's Day (June 21) and All Saints Sunday (Nov. 1).

There is \$22,776 from Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2020. This amount is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Congregation Council is open to suggestions on how to use the funds to support our ministries.

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on May 10<sup>th</sup> as a tribute to all mothers or to commemorate and celebrate a significant milestone in your family's church life such as a baptism, confirmation or wedding. Always keep in mind that the Endowment Fund only grows with contributions from members and friends of Zion – those who share the vision of not only a living memorial for loved ones, but also recognize that upon maturity the fund will provide significant monetary grants for many new mission-oriented programs ... forever.

Envelopes marked "Endowment Fund" will be placed in all the pews.

Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee (Geof Close, Ted Jermansen and Rick Schroeder) if you have any questions.



## God's Work, Our Response

Things around us are changing due to the Coronavirus. But the work of the church continues with Pastor's daily Livestream and Sunday worship online. We are still making deposits and paying bills each week. We are grateful for the families who have pre-pledged for 2020 or have already set up electronic methods of payment. Perhaps it is time to ensure your Stewardship response does not get "quarantined". Now is a good time to consider periodic giving either electronic or by mail.

Four options are described below. Hopefully, one of these will appeal to you.



### Zion Lutheran Church Giving Guide

#### 1. Mobile Giving via Tithe.ly (Tithe.ly account required)

Download the Tithe.ly app

On your mobile device, search for "Tithe.ly" in the app store and install in less than 30 seconds.

Once the app is installed, view this video for full user instructions.

<https://vimeo.com/332035674>

Enter "Zion Lutheran Church" under Find Nearest Church

#### 2. Web-based giving via Tithe.ly (no Tithe.ly account needed – credit card required)

Click on the link below:

[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/313385](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/313385)

Fill out the required information.

Click "Give"

#### 3. Simply Giving (Vanco Online Donations)

To set up or modify your account, click on the link below:

[https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco\\_ver3.vps?appver3=Vs-MhY3fwKZX3NVX4910a4SbL\\_VuZyqZibLEjjKUkw25X4\\_TMP3krEC5inWEbbRmgBfSJ-URZLq3bFqj3on\\_kbhSXIPiRkLdVpIOgZ\\_qjiyGQ1QInfriUM6ER3z59RPzrZbwgFwVkQyXiGYVdLCbA==&ver=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Vs-MhY3fwKZX3NVX4910a4SbL_VuZyqZibLEjjKUkw25X4_TMP3krEC5inWEbbRmgBfSJ-URZLq3bFqj3on_kbhSXIPiRkLdVpIOgZ_qjiyGQ1QInfriUM6ER3z59RPzrZbwgFwVkQyXiGYVdLCbA==&ver=3)

It will take you to the Online Donation page for Zion Lutheran Church.

If you do not have a Simply Giving Account:

Click on the "Create Profile" button under Create Your Online Profile button on the right side of the web page. It will guide you through the information needed to establish your login and password.

If you already have a Simply Giving account:

Click the "Log In" button on the right side of the web page.

Then you can proceed to the Add Transaction where you will be able to select:

The amount (use General Operating); the Frequency (Monthly); the start date.

You will need to provide your bank account (Checking or Savings) information.

Zion's client ID is 504732663.

#### 4. Mail a check to the church

Send your giving amount to:

Zion Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 41  
Oldwick, NJ 08858

Thank you for continuing your response to God's ongoing work.

Due to the current COVID-19 social distancing requirements, worship services are being broadcast remotely and all activities normally held at the CEB or church are temporarily canceled. Regularly scheduled events will take place only after the restrictions have been lifted. Please continue to watch your email and the church's Facebook page for the latest updates. The items below give information about services and activities that will take place ONLY in the event of a discontinuation of social distancing requirements.

## Easter Egg Hunt — April 11

The Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.

Bring a basket and your running shoes!



## A WALK WITH JESUS

All Sunday School Event

**Sunday April 5**

9:45 – 10:35 a.m. CEB Great Room

## A TOUR OF HOLY WEEK

Games, Palm Crosses, Hot Cross Buns

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

## HOSANNA



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## HOLY WEEK AT ZION

**Maundy Thursday – April 9**

Communion Worship at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday – April 10**

Worship Service at 12 p.m.

Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

**Holy Saturday – April 11**

Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. (at CEB)

Easter Vigil at 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunday – April 12**

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

(at Round Valley Boat Launch)

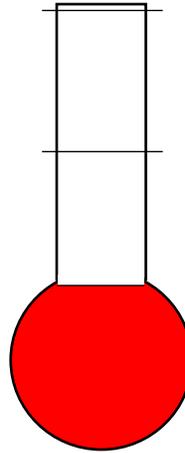
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Holy Week



## Feed My Starving Children Update

Zion has hosted a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event for four consecutive years and needs to take a break in 2020 to raise the funding necessary to make this ministry possible in the future. The financial commitment to host packing the minimum 100,000 meals has grown to \$26,000. Historically, Zion has raised only about half of this from participants during the two-day event, requiring us to supplement with additional donations. Our goal is to raise \$13,000, or half, by Thanksgiving and then schedule our next packing event for Spring 2021.



\$26,000 – needed to host MobilePack

\$13,000 – goal by Thanksgiving

\$1,300 – amount currently in our FMSC account

## Women of Zion

The Yoga for Arthritis Prevention & Management class has been postponed. Please stay tuned for a new date.



## Lunch Bunch — April 8

Providing social distancing restrictions have been lifted, please join the Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, April 8 at 12 p.m. at Long Valley Brew Pub. Call or email the church office to sign up!



## Tag Sale — Saturday April 25

The Tag Sale is on hold until further notice.

## Social Ministry News



Thank you to everyone who donated coffee to Faith Kitchen in Dover. Zion was able to send 172 pounds of coffee to Faith Kitchen, who serves over 100 meals daily to those in need. Each of those meals are accompanied with unlimited cups of coffee. Thank you to John and Jann McAler who coordinated the transfer of all that coffee to Faith Kitchen.

Thank you to everyone who helped during the two weeks that Zion hosted Family Promise. Our guests included 4 women and 8 children under 10 years of age. Every year Zion sponsors children of Family Promise to attend Crossroads summer camp. This is made possible through the funds raised by the Tag Sale. While the Tag Sale is on hold, Zion still has reserve funds from 2019 for up to 10 children will be able to attend.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

4/01	Linda Held	4/12	Audrey Melick
4/01	Shirley Reed	4/12	Richie Morris
4/02	Natalie Ronaldo	4/12	Maya Morris
4/04	Vicki Colasurdo	4/13	Bob Delia
4/04	Fred Herder	4/13	Lou DiCriscio
4/04	Sue Wougk	4/13	Daniel Peters
4/05	Jay Wieder	4/14	Jeff Lanka
4/06	Robert Bryan	4/14	Hannah Melick
4/06	Mike Donnelly	4/15	Shelby Berenty
4/07	Kim Brokaw	4/17	Kathy Lundari
4/09	Erik Maiwaldt	4/17	Greg Smith
4/10	Lauren Wougk	4/18	Jonathan Rodrick
4/11	Matthew Melick	4/21	Brian Pepe

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

4/10/1997	Ron & Trish Iervolino
4/12/1991	Clark & Rose Gill
4/19/1980	Ralph & Robbin Lamo
4/24/1998	Robert & Cheryl Fox
4/27/1985	David & Debbie Levine

***This past month, we have been praying for the following members:***

- + Elizabeth Blackwood, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- + Linda Herder, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- + Elaine Jermansen, who is recovering from knee surgery.
- + John & Kathy Rustwick, who are mourning the loss of their brother-in-law, Melvin Neighbors.
- + Rick & Carolyn Schroeder, who are mourning the loss of Carolyn's mother, Audrey Rheiner.
- + Travis Smith, who was hospitalized and is now recovering at home.
- + Bonnie Summer, who is undergoing rehabilitation at Moravian Village.
- + Ted Talis, who is undergoing rehabilitation at home.
- + Paul Zervas, who has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

***Members have requested prayers for the following family and friends:***

- + Ginanne, friend of Eleanor & Bill Kover, who is recovering from surgery for ovarian cancer.
- + Jeff, brother-in-law of Robbin Lamo, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.
- + Kaden, 20-year-old nephew of John & Kathy Rustwick, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- + Nathaniel Gilmartin, grandson of Steve & Margaret Griggs, who is thriving at home but still has health issues that will be of concern for a long time. Continued prayers are requested for eventual successful resolution of these ongoing challenges.
- + Nancy Kastrup, friend of John & Kathy Rustwick, who is recovering from brain tumor surgery.
- + Jake Tannenbaum, friend of Zack Heeman, who is recovering from open heart surgery.

***Members, friends, and relatives serving in the military:***

Heidi Kunkel, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort.

***Please give the church office updates on people you have placed on this list so prayers may be properly directed.***

## DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

*April 1*  
Psalm 143  
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41  
Matthew 22:23-33

*April 2*  
Psalm 31:9-16  
1 Samuel 16:11-13  
Philippians 1:1-11

*April 3*  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Job 13:13-19  
Philippians 1:21-30

*April 4*  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Lamentations 3:55-66  
Mark 10:32-34

*April 5 – Palm Sunday*  
Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

*April 6 – Monday in Holy Week*  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

*April 7 – Tuesday in Holy Week*  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 11:18-31  
John 12:20-36

*April 8 – Wednesday in Holy Week*  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

*April 9 – Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*April 10 – Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1—19:42

*April 11 – Vigil of Easter*  
Romans 6:3-11  
John 20:1-18

*April 12 – Easter Day*  
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

*April 13*  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21  
Colossians 3:5-11

*April 14*  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 15:1-18  
Colossians 3:12-17

*April 15*  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Joshua 3:1-7  
Matthew 28:1-10

*April 16*  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 2:8-15  
Colossians 4:2-5

*April 17*  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*April 18*  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
John 20:11-20

*April 19 – Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

*April 20*  
Psalm 114  
Judges 6:36-40  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

*April 21*  
Psalm 114  
Jonah 1:1-17  
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

*April 22*  
Psalm 114  
Jonah 2:1-10  
Matthew 12:38-42

*April 23*  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:1-5  
1 Peter 1:8b-12

*April 24*  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 26:1-4  
1 Peter 1:13-16

*April 25*  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Luke 14:12-14

*April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

*April 27*  
Psalm 134  
Genesis 18:1-14  
1 Peter 1:23-25

*April 28*  
Psalm 134  
Proverbs 8:32—9:6  
1 Peter 2:1-3

*April 29*  
Psalm 134  
Exodus 24:1-11  
John 21:1-14

*April 30*  
Psalm 23  
Exodus 2:15b-25  
1 Peter 2:9-12



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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**