



Good News From Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace...

May 2020

A Message from Pastor May

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May you be blessed throughout this Easter season. I hope that the next 50 days will bring the end of the current situation. I long to see your faces in our worship space!

What interesting times we are in with Covid-19! It has altered everyone's lives, including the corporate life of our congregation. I have been operating under the conviction that my primary role as your pastor is to help keep us connected:

- Connected in worship - we have been able to maintain an online presence for our worship together on Sunday mornings and festivals. The Palm Sunday worship service had over 300 views on Facebook and YouTube!!! Get the word out! Share with friends and family.
- Connected to God in faith - The daily (6 days each week) 11:00 am virtual presence on Facebook has been a blessing - over 100 views each day, sometimes 150 views!
- Connected in life - Again soon I will offer an opportunity to connect via Zoom. Last Tuesday night, 22 people joined us for conversation.
- Connected to your pastor - I am delighted by the support and conversations that I have had with so many of you, even if only via message or email. It is really great to be here as your pastor!

Enclosed in this mailing you will find the worship booklet for the Sundays of the Easter season. Please use this booklet to follow along with video services each week. Included, also, are some news from ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, plus a calendar of Bible readings for the month of May.

Thank you to so many for their assistance: Rod, Karla, Melissa, Jenny, and our readers.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you for your prayers for one another.

Thank you for staying connected.

Peace be with you until we are once again face to face.

Pr. May

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we continue to practice social distancing, 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 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 by visiting www.youtube.com and searching "Zion Lutheran Church Oldwick". Sunday worship services are being archived on the YouTube channel as well.

Daily lectionary readings for the month of May can be found on page 5 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 met via Zoom conference call on April 9. Below are the minutes of that meeting.

- Pastor May reported that Facebook Live events are continuing each day. Videos of worship services will continue to be posted on Facebook and YouTube.
- Financial reports were received and accepted as presented. It was noted that social distancing is having an impact on giving.
- Social Ministry Committee made a proposal regarding the urgent need of Family Promise due to changes brought on by Covid19 and social distancing. A motion was made and seconded to give \$10,000 to Family Promise from the Beagle Family Bequest directed fund account. Discussion confirmed the desire to fulfill this need. The motion carried unanimously.
- Social Ministry also reported that the food pantry is in need of donations. We will promote this through our Easter worship video and the worship packet that will be mailed next week.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. Meetings are open for all to attend.



Endowment Committee News

Along with our ongoing virtual worship, the Endowment Committee will be having our first Endowment Sunday for 2020 on Mother's Day, May 10!

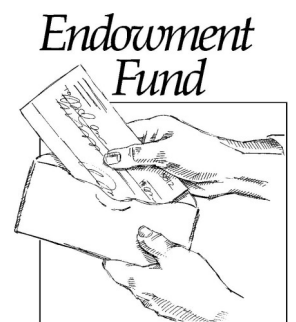
The other Endowment Sundays for 2020 will be on Father's Day, June 21, and All Saints Sunday, November 1.

Would you please consider mailing a check to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund 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.

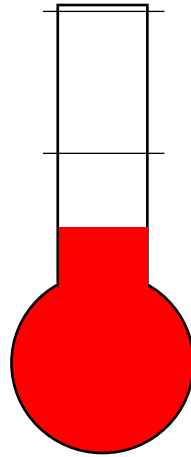
There is \$22,776 from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2020. This is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Church Council is open to suggestions on using the funds to support our ministries.

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



FMSC Contributions Received in 2020

So far in 2020, we have collected \$4,025 in funds directed toward Feed My Starving Children. Together with the \$1,300 being held for us by FMSC, we now have \$5,325 set aside for the 2021 MobilePack. We still have a goal of \$13,000 by Thanksgiving. Thank you to all who have supported this important ministry!



\$26,000 – needed to host 2021 MobilePack

\$13,000 – goal by Thanksgiving

\$5,325 – \$4,025 collected in 2020, plus
\$1,300 being held by FMSC

Women of Zion

Join us for an iPhone Photography Class on Saturday, May 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the CEB.

Learn how to take more artistic pictures with your iPhone. Attend a two hour, hands-on class led by local landscape photographer, Sandy Ross (www.sandyrossphoto.com). The cost is \$20/person, DUE to Anita Zarate BY MAY 11th. We look forward to seeing everyone!



Lunch Bunch — May 13

Providing social distancing restrictions have been lifted, please join the Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, May 13 at 12 p.m. at Long Valley Brew Pub. Call or email the church office to sign up!



God's Work, Our Response

Not surprisingly, giving was down in March. However, there is good news as well. 6 families have fulfilled their 2020 pledge (3 in December and 3 in January). They gave over \$76,000. That with the beginning year Operating Reserve of just under \$40,000 gives us available funds for our ministries.

Since the April newsletter article, one family signed up for Tithely; 3 families signed up for Simply Giving; and many have mailed in checks. Through the first quarter, 19 families are ahead of their pledge projection.

The work of the church continues with Pastor May's daily Facebook Livestream and Sunday worship services online. We are still making deposits and paying bills each week. Covid-19 is moving us to a new normal. We should remember that as God's people, we are **Blessed to be a Blessing**. If you have not already made your plan to support our ministries, we ask that you consider doing that now. Ways you can continue your support of Zion are:

- Mail your checks to the church office at PO Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858; or
- Join Simply Giving; or
- Join Tithely

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



Giving to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

To make a donation to ELCA World Hunger or Lutheran Disaster Response, please send your contribution check made out to Zion Lutheran Church to the parish office (P.O. Box 41, Oldwick 08858), and indicate the name of the organization you are supporting. The stories below represent the ways in which your donations make a difference.

Hope for renewal of the earth – Honduras

Carlos and Anita live in the Santa Ana community of Honduras, a region that is part of the “dry corridor.” In this area, farmers face difficult challenges accessing water for their households and farms. Rain comes in only four months of the year, and residents face long periods of drought, which puts them at heightened risk of hunger.

“This problem forces women to work even harder in order to collect water,” Anita said. “Here, we do not sleep during the summer months, in order to grab a little water; we need to wait several hours by the well.”

The lack of water is especially challenging for farmers, who depend on water for crops and animals. With support from ELCA World Hunger and the Lutheran World Federation’s World Service/Central America program, local organization Red COMAL (the Alternative Community Markets Network, in English) is helping farmers such as Carlos and Anita learn new techniques and strategies that will help reduce their vulnerability to food insecurity while protecting the land on which they rely.

Through a project implemented by Red COMAL, Carlos was trained in agroecology, an approach that focuses on food production and sustainable management of resources. Carlos has learned to diversify his crops and helped establish a system of stockpiling corn for times of scarcity and emergency. He also learned how to select, rescue, reproduce and store native seeds, which has helped him plant new crops for his family and help other farmers in his community.

In addition to planting fruit trees, sweet potatoes and squash, Carlos has also reforested his plot of land with trees such as laurel, cedar and mahogany. The wood can be used to build houses and generate income for his family. Native hens provide meat and eggs, while cows provide milk, all of which help Carlos and Anita earn income from their farm.

The dry corridor of the Santa Ana community still presents challenges for residents like Carlos and Anita. But with the support of ELCA World Hunger, LWF and Red COMAL, they are able to learn new approaches that will help their farms be profitable and sustainable for years to come.



“May God bless your thoughtful gestures” -- Zimbabwe

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai made landfall, causing widespread flooding and destruction in parts of southeast Africa, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Reported as one of the worst tropical cyclones to affect Africa on record, the storm killed more than a thousand people, with many more missing.

Enia, a 60-year-old woman from the Chimanimani district of Zimbabwe, survived Cyclone Idai. She remembers saying goodnight to her husband as they went to bed that night. Just a few moments later, the rain started to pour, and they heard loud noises outside. Enia’s husband went to see what was happening. It was the last time she saw him alive.

“All of a sudden I saw rocks and muddy waters coming into our room through the windows,” she said, “and within the short period of time I was half-buried under the rubble, and it all happened so fast that I couldn’t figure out what was really happening.” Eventually, Enia escaped, but her husband did not. Enia was injured, and in addition to losing a loved one, she lost her home, food reserves, clothing and other property.

Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, Enia knows she’s not alone. Enia is one of more than 3,200 people in the Chimanimani district you helped support as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe distributed nonfood items for immediate relief and offered psychosocial support to survivors. Because of her injuries, she can’t walk to the distribution center to pick up supplies, so things such as food, clothing and blankets have been brought to her. “May God bless you for your thoughtful gestures as I am able to survive,” she said.



DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Friday, May 1

Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Saturday, May 2

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Monday, May 4

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, May 5

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, May 6

Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, May 7

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 8

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 9

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Monday, May 11

Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, May 12

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, May 13

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thursday, May 14

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22
Acts 27:1-12

Friday, May 15

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, May 16

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Monday, May 18

Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tuesday, May 19

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wednesday, May 20

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 21

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 22

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Saturday, May 23

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Monday, May 25

Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 26

Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 27

Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 28

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 29

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 30

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01	Matthew Baker	5/21	Mike Appel
5/01	Martha Wrede	5/21	Meghan Stanski
5/01	Will Zerfas	5/22	Judy Bogan
5/03	Rachel Leber	5/23	Barry Polhemus
5/03	Audrey Ruland	5/23	Lily Rogers
5/06	Carl Livingston	5/23	JT Wieder
5/06	John Ruland	5/24	Elaine Apgar
5/08	Bernie Davis	5/24	Brianna Colasurdo
5/08	Ron Iervolino	5/26	Gordon Nicholas
5/10	Christine Scarloss	5/27	Kirsten Maiwaldt
5/11	Kathleen Appel	5/28	Bill Smith
5/13	Cathy Winter	5/29	Jodi Ennis
5/15	Claire LeFevre	5/29	Jaime Ennis
5/15	Rebecca Zerfas	5/29	Tom Fesenmaier
5/17	Hannah Reale	5/30	Libby Costello
5/19	Emma Mikitiuk	5/30	Kathryn Snyder
5/19	David Wintemute		
5/19	Harald Wougk		
5/20	Steve Surhoff		
5/20	Emily Wilson		
5/20	Anita Zarate		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/04	Rich & Sharon Hanft
5/05	Judy & Jim Bogan
5/05	Carolyn & Mike Roberti
5/07	Sandy & John Matsen
5/07	Harald & Sue Wougk
5/13	Jeff & Karla May
5/15	Gordon & Bonnie Nicholas
5/16	Vicki & Phil Colasurdo
5/16	Joe & Linda Lovas
5/25	Bob & Zaida Durham
5/26	Mike & Erin Brogan
5/28	Dan & Leonora Matyola



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

- + Linda Herder, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- + Bonnie Summer, who is undergoing rehabilitation at Moravian Village.
- + Ted Talis, who is undergoing rehabilitation at home.
- + Paul Zerfas, who has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Members have requested prayers for the following family and friends:

- + 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.

Members, friends, and relatives serving in the military:

Heidi Kunkel, Hunter MacKenzie, David Marvel, 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.

