

## **Effective, March 16, 2020, Zion Lutheran Church is canceling all church activities and closing the church facilities until further notice.**

This closure includes Wednesday night programs, Sunday morning worship and activities, church activities that take place away from the church property, and outside group meetings at the church. Zion staff will work modified hours at the church and will be available via phone or email during the week. Currently the office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm until further notice. Information about how and when to reach Zion staff, as well as ongoing updates, will continue to be shared with all members via email.

During this time that we cannot meet in person there will be options to meet digitally.

## facebook

Zion's Facebook can be found at [Facebook.com/zionlexsc](https://www.facebook.com/zionlexsc). Here we will post updates, weekly videos, home faith resources, and links to our online worship experiences.

Zion's Website can be found at [Zionlexsc.com](https://www.zionlexsc.com) here you can find updates from Zion and direct links to our online worship resources.

## You Tube

Zion's YouTube can be found at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) Here we will be posting devotional videos and worship resources. Take a moment to watch the video series from last Sunday and check back for videos to come.

As always you can call or go online at anytime to support our ministries at [Zionlexsc.com/giving](https://www.zionlexsc.com/giving).

*O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*A Prayer for a Time of Conflict, Crisis, or Disaster, from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 76*

# E-News@

Week of March 17, 2020



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's an unusual week and a time of great uncertainty for our nation, our community, and our congregation. With concerns about the coronavirus and the spread of illness altering so much of life for the time being, I want to let you know that your church is here and is ready to love and serve as always. Times like this test our faith, our faith in God and our faith in each other. Therefore, there are three things that I want you to know right now.

First, I want you to know that God is with us in our anxiety, confusion, and fear. The scriptures tell us about many people of faith who were met by God in the most difficult and life changing circumstances. To these people of faith, messengers of God were always saying, "Do not be afraid for God is with you." This is our comfort too. God has promised to abide with us and provide for us and we stand on these promises of God.

Second, I want you to know your church family is ready to help and support you in the days ahead. Staff and leaders at Zion are making plans for ways that we will reach out to people in the congregation and provide care and companionship. That will be important as we all lead more isolated lives for a while. I invite you to also reach out to those you know so we can walk with each other through this new reality.

Third, I want you to know that, moving forward, we will be providing you lots of resources and lots of ways to connect. Through emails, social media, and videos we hope to give you tools that will help you worship and learn at home and feel connected to each other. So I encourage you to look for those emails and online resources often and to help others from our congregation find their way to these tools as well.

The theme verse we have been using for our Lenten worship here at Zion says, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). My prayer for you is that the perfect love of God reaches you wherever you are today and casts out some of the fear that you feel. And I pray that our love for one another will be strengthened in the time to come by all we do as servants of the Lord.

May the peace of God be with you,

Pastor Nathan Gragg

## **Birthdays this Week**

18th Russell Kleckley  
Janice Sult  
Eileen Leaphart  
Sophi Hanna  
19th Tyler Ivey  
20th Traci Hanna


22nd Cassie Hook  
Gail Fox  
23rd Larkin Corley  
Ross Hunter

**Enjoy your special day!**

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