



# July 2020 Newsletter

All the news that's fit to print from A to Zion

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
226 Corley Mill Road  
Lexington, SC 29072  
Phone: (803) 356-2297  
Fax: (803) 951-0287  
**ZionLexsc.com**

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00am-2:00pm

**Staff**  
Nathan Gragg  
Pastor  
Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton  
Director of Youth,  
Education, and  
Communications  
Walt@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham,  
Director of Music  
Julie@zionlexsc.com

Starr Corley  
Financial Administrator  
Starr@zionlexsc.com

Steve Shumpert  
Facilities Manager  
Steve@zionlexsc.com



**Rooted in Christ  
Growing in Faith  
Reaching Out in Love**

## **SUNDAYS IN JULY ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES THIS MONTH**

Congregation leaders here at Zion are continuing to evaluate and plan for the best and safest ways for us to worship and be connected to each other. Following a time of thoughtful conversation, we have determined that we will not be returning to in person worship in July. The rising number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in our state, and in our county in particular, suggests that our best course of action right now is caution. Therefore, we will continue to offer online worship during the month of July as well as other ways to connect and participate in ministry at Zion. Moving forward we will continue to assess the possibility of resuming in person in August or September. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



---

### **SUNDAY, JULY 5**

#### **11:00am – Noon, Come to Zion for Drive Thru Prayer and Donation Stations**

Following the Sunday morning Premiere of our Worship Video, you are invited to come to the Zion parking lot for prayer and giving opportunities. Safe and social distanced stations will be set up in the parking lot where you can share prayer requests and have someone pray for you, give a regular offering to Zion, give food donations to Mission Lexington, and receive a special sending blessing. Look for more information in your Sunday preview emails this week.

### **SUNDAYS, JULY 12, 19, and 26**

On these Sundays we will hear new voices as we welcome three pastors from neighboring Lutheran congregations to share sermon reflections as a part of our worship.

---

### **Zion Facilities will Remain Closed through July**

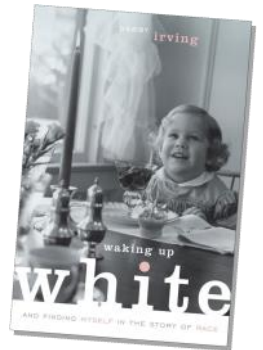
In general, our church facilities remain closed to all except for the church staff. If you have a need to gain access to the church buildings, please call the church office (803) 356-2297.

A Word from Pastor Nathan

## **Responding to the Recent Protests and Concerns about Race and Racism in America**

During the last month there have been increased conversations, protests, and demands for action concerning issues of race, racism, and justice in our nation. How should we as Christian people respond? Several members of Zion have asked about resources they might use to help them think through these difficult but important issues. As one way to help our congregation have honest conversations about race, I am inviting you to consider being a part of a book reading group.

The book this group will be reading together is *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. Though this book is a few years old (published in 2014), it comes highly recommended as a way of white Americans to understand their own place in the story of race and racism. This book may make some of us uncomfortable, and that's okay. A certain amount of discomfort seems needed right now to help us be more clear and more honest about the challenges we face and how we are called to act as people of faith.



If you would like to be a part of this book reading group, please email me ([Nathan@zionLexsc.com](mailto:Nathan@zionLexsc.com)) and I will send you some more information about ways we will talk and share what we learn together.

Peace,  
Pastor Nathan

---

**Pastor Nathan will be on vacation July 8-22.** During this time Pastor Bill Mitcham from Zion and Pastor Jason Antley from St. Stephens Lutheran Church will be available for emergencies and pastoral needs. Please call the church office during our adjusted business hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-Noon) if you have news or updates to share about someone's health or have a pastoral need. At other times you may contact, Pastor Mitcham (803) 210-9197 or Pastor Antley (803) 351-9317 by phone.

---



## **Zion's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Postponed**

The event scheduled for Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of Zion Lutheran Church has been postponed. Regrettably, this was the best decision for our church during this time of uncertainty. The festivities will be rescheduled for another date when we know more about when it will be safe for all to be back together for a day of joy and remembering. Many thanks to our 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their diligent work.

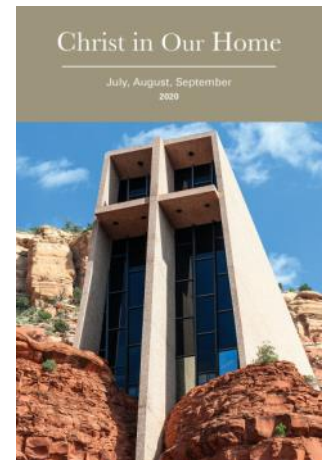


## Join us in **Splash Canyon** God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride

This summer's **Vacation Bible School** will be a new and exciting experience, each week in July your family will receive a packet with all the fun stories and crafts of a normal VBS to do together at home. Then once a week we will gather online to see how the lessons are going, learn, and sing together. **All you need to do** to participate is register your family by emailing [Walt@Zionlexsc.com](mailto:Walt@Zionlexsc.com) to let us know that we'll see you in Splash Canyon!

### New Devotional Books *Christ in Our Home for July-September*

Stop by the office this week to pickup this month's *Christ in our Home* devotional booklet. Many of us enjoy a moment of scripture and reflection to center our day. This small booklet will provide you with that opportunity. You can stop by the church office Monday through Thursday 9am to 12 noon and pick one up. Or you can email the church [ZionChurch@zionlexsc.com](mailto:ZionChurch@zionlexsc.com) and we will mail it to you.



## Graceworks @ Home 2020

Graceworks, our annual service week in Columbia is going virtual this year. We will be meeting via Zoom and online videos July 13-15. We will have a morning check-in video and small group devotions on Zoom from 10:00am-12:30pm and a video worship service (Family Friendly) at 7:00pm each day. Each day will also include projects to process our bible discussions and at home service opportunities.

All Youth 6-12th grade are welcome and encouraged to join us for Graceworks @ Home! There is a \$15 donation that will go to our normal Graceworks service agencies. As always if money is a barrier for participation please contact Walt and your fee will be taken care of.

Go here to register now: <https://graceworks2020registration.eventbrite.com>

Zion is proud to have several youth on the planning team for Graceworks, please keep them in your prayers and thanks to them for being leaders in serving our community!





### Music Notes – July 2020

Well, it's July... And there is still not a clear plan for exactly when we will be able to get back together in person. We're continuing to plan as best we can in a manner that will keep everyone safe.

Know that I'm still missing you guys and our time together each week.

Julie

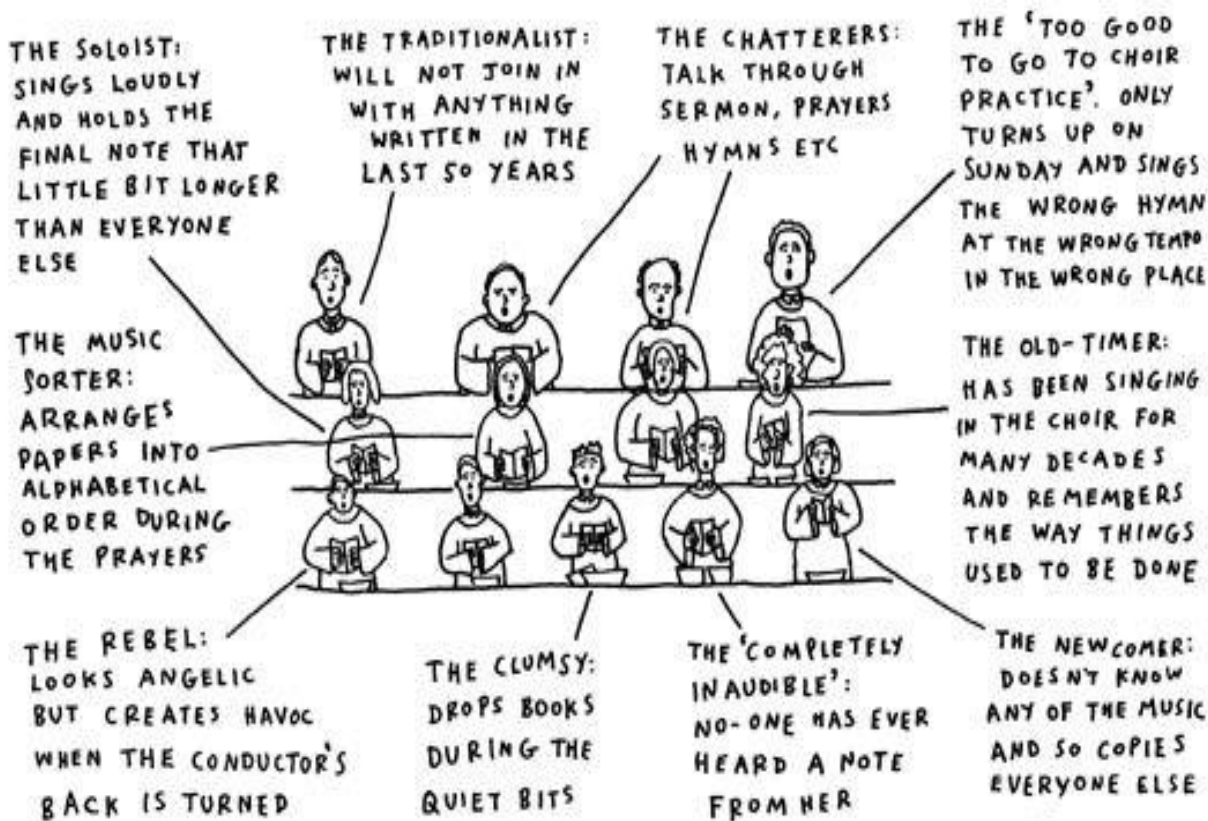
If you have any questions, or if you'd like to share your musical talents in some way, please contact Julie at [julie@zionlexsc.com](mailto:julie@zionlexsc.com).

**My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! Psalm 57:7**

### Choir Fun... Which one are you?



#### THE CHOIR





# In our Prayers

## **Current Needs**

Betty Baker  
Jerald Drafts  
Barry Granda  
Jean Hendrix  
Melba Ivey  
Wyman Kleckley  
Jean Peebles (Lex Extended)  
Warren Peebles  
Sara Rymer  
Libby Wright

## **Homebound**

Barbara Brown  
Les Caton (Brian Center)  
Bruce Corley (Carolina Gardens)  
Nellie Drafts  
Thelma Kleckley (Oakleaf)  
Thomas Kleckley (Oakleaf)  
Jane Langston

## **Expecting Mothers**

Heather Williamson

## **Military**

Brett Creasman (Army)  
Burton Flake (Army)  
Matt Mayer (Air Force)  
Rhett Oliver (Army)  
Chris Rauch (Army)

## **Friends of the Congregation**

Lynn Balch (health, wife of Craig Balch)  
Dwayne Ballentine (cancer, friend of Ethel Riley)  
Natasha Gorham-Jackson (family health, friend of D. Weight)  
Noreen Hamm (liver transplant, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)  
Gene Hendrix (health issues, Hendrix family)  
Esther Hempel (health, mother of Carol Hunter)  
Arthur Holladay (health, uncle of Bonnie Phillips)  
Pam Holladay (health, mother of Bonnie Phillips)  
Colin Hungerpiller (health, friend of Stefanie Wingard)  
Jessica Seriah Housley & family (cancer)  
Sue Jaeckel (cancer, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)  
Shelly Koenig (cancer, daughter of Tom Panyard)  
Lenita Krall (cancer, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)  
Frances Link (dementia, relative of Henry Phillips)  
Elaine Davis Long (cancer, stepmother of Janet Phillips)  
Russell Meetze (cancer, family of Edith Clark)  
Deanna Morrical (cancer, Hanna family)  
Donna Riggins (cancer, sister in law of Rachael Rhoden)  
Holly Roberts (health concerns)  
Sylvia Ruff (cancer, aunt of Julie Branham)  
James "Jim" Sanders (heart issues, friend of the Sults)  
Roger Spires (surgery, friend of the Leapharts)  
Robert Tolar (health and family, friend of Bob McCombs)  
Claybourn Walters (health, cousin of Eileen Leaphart)  
Barney Weight (Alzheimer's, brother of Darlene Weight)  
John Whiteside (cancer, friend of the Shaws)  
Patty Wingard (cancer, mother of Greg Wingard)  
Kara Clas (complications from childbirth, friend of C. Fallaw)

## **Those Celebrating New Life**

Anna and Greg Wingard as they celebrate the birth of a healthy baby girl,  
Merritt June Wingard, born on June 20th.

## **Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones**

The family and friends of Nila Keisler who died on Thursday June 4th at Lexington Extended Care.  
The family and friends of Jamie Hampton upon the death of her Father Roy Zweig Thursday June 11th.

*To ensure we have accurate information on our prayer list please let us know as prayer requests change.  
To make updates or additions to the prayer list, contact the church office at 356-2297.*



# Congregation Council

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 11, 2020

Chairman, Craig Balch, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting was held via ZOOM. All council members logged into the internet meeting along with Pastor Nathan and Walt Hampton.

Lee Caulder opened the meeting with devotions.

Council members shared what they had learned about themselves, the church and God during the last eight weeks of the pandemic.

**Secretary's Report:** The April minutes were presented. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** No printed report. The Treasurer stated that giving was slightly down during the last several weeks. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

**Executive Committee Report:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** No written report. Pastor Nathan reported that he and the staff have been doing prep work and videos online. Still waiting to hear from Lutheridge to see if the confirmands will be able to go to camp this summer. The Pastor thanked everyone for keeping him informed of the various needs of the congregation during the pandemic. He stated that we all are now part of pastoral care.

**Christian Education** (Bridget Ridgell) – Trying to plan for social distancing at VBS and all summer programs.

**Fellowship** (Janice Sult) – No report. The Wednesday Night Fellowship via ZOOM has been a great way to connect with members.

**Inreach** (Donna Corley) - No report.

**Mutual Ministry** (Sara Rymer) – No report.

**Outreach** (Mary Nell Panyard) – No report.

**Property** (Ernest Beck) – No report.

**Stewardship** (Anna Wingard) – No report.



# Congregation Council

Technology (Sue Anderson) – A second camera is being purchased. This should enhance the quality of our videos.

Music & Worship (Lee Calder) – Received excellent feedback for the children's messages, Sunday worship and bible study online. Next meeting will be May 24<sup>th</sup> on ZOOM.

Youth (Kathryn Barton & Walt Hampton) – Youth still meeting on Wednesdays via ZOOM. Advisors are keeping in touch with youth through texts and social media. Remember our high school and college seniors as we are not able to celebrate with them as usual.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The SC Synod Assembly is Saturday, July 25, 2020 (one day only) at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Lexington. All must re-register.

Zion's Online Giving Challenge was presented and discussed. A motion was made to challenge 20 new households to sign up for Automatic or Online Giving by June 1<sup>st</sup> and give a first time gift of at least \$50.00. The motion was seconded and carried.

Discussed re-opening the church buildings. The Synod and as well as the Saxe Gotha District is gathering information to prepare guidelines for re-opening.

Council shared joys and concerns and prayer request.  
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Corley

---

### **Giving Info Year to date June 30, 2020**

Offering **anticipated** year to date: \$ 235,955

Offering **received** year to date: \$ 228,028

**Difference** year to date: \$ - 7,926

### **Gifts to Zion and Partner Feeding Ministries this Year**

Mission Lexington: **539 pounds of food**

Snack Packs Ministry: **\$ 237**

Matthew 25 Lunch Ministry: **\$ 2070**

---





# Congregation Council

## Giving at Zion - Recent Memorials Given

### To General Fund:

In memory of Nila Keisler *by Kent Grant, Paul & Mary Hook, Al & Carla Fallaw, Hal & Carolette Turner, John & Norene Drafts, Nellie Drafts, Jerald & Margaret Drafts, Cyretha B. Barbee, Bryant & Stephanie Davis, Guy & GeGe Kimball, Anita & Curtis Murphy, Tim Driggers, Charles & Karey Hendrix, Jean & Warren Peebles, Myron & Linda Corley, Marion V. Smyrl, Roy & Seretha Sox, Darlene Weight*

In memory of Ben Lindler *by Ethel Riley, Suzanne Whyte, Steve & Janice Sult; Ed & Betty Corley*

In memory of Martha McCombs *by Ethel Riley, Suzanne Whyte, Steve & Janice Sult, Ed & Betty Corley*

In memory of Ernest Swygert *by Ethel Riley, Suzanne Whyte, Ed & Betty Corley*

In memory of Patty Grant *by Family of Killian L and Oma M Sox*

In memory of Dwight Corley *by Peggy Sox, Lawrence & Dana McAlhany, Gator Bay Boys, Ed & Betty Corley, Steve & Janice Sult*

In memory of Roy Zweig *by Paul & Mary Hook, Darlene Weight*

In memory of Tom Panyard *by Al & Carla Fallaw, Randy & Beverly McCoy, Beth Chafin, Tim Driggers, Debbie Rhyne, Ethel Riley, Suzanne Whyte, Guy & GeGe Kimball, Lewis & Naomi Caswell, Darlene Weight, Steve & Janice Sult, Ed & Betty Corley, Jeffery C. Caswell*

In memory of Rosa Hendrix *by Walter & Jean Hendrix*

**For Father's Day** in memory of Jack Driggers & Wilber Kaminer *by Donna, Dale & Tim*

### To Youth

In Memory of Don Donohue *by Dorothy Girton*

### To Scout Troop 425:

In memory of Dwight Corley *by David & Julianne Sojourner, John & Norene Drafts,*  
In memory of Dwight & Nita Corley *by Family of Killian L and Oma M Sox, Lynette R. Brantley*

### To Matthew 25

In memory of Donald Donohue *by Pat Stober*





# Communications

## July Birthdays

2nd Jessica Senn  
Mary Lynn Sox  
Casey McIntosh  
Janssen Ellisor  
3rd Dylan Granda  
4th Tristin Secoy  
5th Elizabeth Edsall  
Janet Green  
Roger Anderson  
Cannon McKinley  
6th Caylan Bigham  
Ernest Beck  
7th Ansley Secoy  
8th Ed Harmon  
Barry Granda  
9th Luci Hanna  
11th Madelyn Ellisor

12th Hal Turner  
Zach Willis  
Julie Branham  
13th Rebecca Saville  
14th Macy Hunt  
15th Lisa Lorick  
Kara Willis  
16th Ronald Leaphart  
Jill Beck  
17th Bev Gunter  
18th John Drafts  
Reilly Barrineau  
19th Stacey Hook  
22nd Ethel Riley  
David Gragg  
25th Jamie Hampton  
26th Addison Corley  
Mary Nell Panyard

27th Jenna Kleckley  
Brenda Smith  
McKenzie Flashnick  
29th Michelle Sebring  
30th Andrew Richardson  
31st Burns Corley  
Althea Hendrix  
Walter Hendrix  
Lauren Creasman

## July Anniversaries

2nd Kregg & Lisa Corley  
Zack & Courtney Grant  
19th Gregory & Anna  
Wingard  
22nd Steve & Susan  
Shumpert

## GIVING OPPORTUNITES

We encourage you to give to support the ministries of Zion Lutheran Church during this critical time. We are fortunate to have continued to receive offering from many through the mail and through the various electronic ways we have to give.

You can contact Starr Corley in the church office to find out more about these ways to give (356-2297, [starr@zionlexsc.com](mailto:starr@zionlexsc.com)) or go to <https://www.zionlexsc.com/giving>.

There are many ways to give an offering to Zion today or in the weeks ahead.

1. You can mail offering to Zion Lutheran Church, 226 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072.
2. You can send a gift through your bank's online giving system.
3. You can click here to go to Zion's online giving page to give a one time offering or to set up regular automated giving. [Zionlexsc.com/giving](https://www.zionlexsc.com/giving)



Our partners in ministry at Mission Lexington are on the front lines helping those in our community who are most affected by the current financial strain. The best way to support the work of Mission Lexington is to give a financial gift. Click here to find out how: <https://missionlexingtonsc.org/donate>