



April 2020 Newsletter

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

Zion Lutheran Church
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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

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

Zion Lutheran Church remains closed until further notice.

Zion Worship this month



Sunday Drive In Worship – Beginning Sunday, May 3rd Zion will be hosting a **Drive In Worship service each Sunday at 10:00am**. Look for weekly emails with more information and a way to access and print your worship bulletin for use at the service. This Drive in worship service will also be broadcast on **Facebook Live at 10:00am**.

Wednesday Night Dive – This brief worship and devotion time featuring songs and scripture will be available each Wednesday evening on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#). You can watch it any time or join the **Premiere on Facebook Wednesday at 6:30pm**. Following the Premiere there will be two opportunities to join in Zoom fellowship at 7:00pm - an Adults fellowship time and a Youth fellowship time. You'll receive links for those Zoom gatherings on Wednesday.

Sunday Worship Video – Our Drive In Worship service will be recorded each Sunday morning and posted to YouTube on Sunday afternoon for those who would like to view it and participate in worship in this way.

We hope these new opportunities to connect to God, each other, and our neighbors through worship will be meaningful to you. We also hope you continue to find all the resources for Faith at Home we are sharing at zionlexsc.com/faithathome. God is truly at work in our homes and in all we are doing during this time of being apart.

This plan is subject to change. Please watch for more information each week.

Being church in a time of Isolation

The church staff is in the office from 9am—12pm Monday through Thursday. We are working hard to produce and provide new faith formation and worship experiences for our members and community. Go to Zionlexsc.com/faithathome to get resources for worshipping at home with your family. See page 2 for more info on all the faith opportunities this month. Also see Pastor Nathan's message from the 3rd Sunday of Easter on pages 3-4.



Zion Faith at Home resources

Although we cannot meet in person right now, we can still worship together.

For continued updates and Faith at Home resources go to

Zionlexsc.com/faithathome.

WORSHIP VIDEOS

Each week we are posting videos of the service to YouTube and Facebook.



1. **Wednesday Night Dive devotional** videos go live on YouTube Wednesday afternoon by 2:00pm and we will watch together as it premieres on Facebook at 6:30pm. (Make sure you go to Zion's page and click on the premiere, do not click "Start watch Party", this will ensure that we are all in one chat.)

2. **Sunday Morning Worship** videos will be broadcast live on Facebook during worship, Sundays at 10:00am. They will also be recorded and uploaded to Youtube Sunday afternoon.

Remember to follow and like our Facebook page, and Subscribe to our YouTube page to ensure you are getting notified about our videos as well as help to spread the word of what Zion is doing.

[Click to view Zion's YouTube Page](#)

[Click to view Zion's Facebook Page](#)

ZOOM GATHERINGS

Zoom is the way that many people are connecting during this time of social distancing. If you are not familiar with Zoom, it is a simple computer/smart phone program that lets you have group video meetings. Below is all our upcoming Zoom meeting opportunities.

1. **Zoom Youth Group** - Zion Youth met via Zoom last week and again will meet each Wednesday in May. The links for these pmeetups are emailed out Tuesday the week of and are password protected to ensure privacy and safety for our Youth. If you have a youth who would like to join us email Walt@zionlexsc.com to find out more. You can also receive text notifications from Zion Youth via Remind just text **@zionluthy to the number 81010** or click here: remind.com/join/zionluthy

2. **Zoom Wednesday Night Fellowship** - As part of our new Wednesday Night Dive series we will gather on Zoom Wednesday Night at 7:00pm for fellowship and discussion about the themes from worship or whatever is important to the group each week. Check for the link in the weekly email, and join us for a time of fellowship and discussion.

3. **Zoom Bible Study** - Here's a new weekly opportunity to join together with others from Zion. Each week we'll look at one of the Psalms and see how it speaks to us in our current circumstances. Join in at 11:00am or 7:00pm each Thursday in May. The links to join are sent out each week. Email Pastor Nathan (nathan@zionlexsc.com) if you have any trouble.



Faith at Home

Sermon for the Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Nathan Gragg

We recorded our worship video for the Third Sunday of Easter and this sermon on Wednesday, April 22. I'm telling you that because that's the day we had just gotten word that South Carolina schools are going to remain closed for the rest of the school year. In a way it wasn't surprising news. But it's still disappointing and a real loss for some of our students. As a parent of three middle and high school students, I can tell you the reactions are probably going to be mixed.

Not having to go to a school building for eight hours a day. Not having to get up really early Monday through Friday. Being able to "go to class" in your pajamas. Those probably seem like wins to a lot of students. But there are a lot of losses too. More time without your friends. More long boring days. And no way for life to feel like it's getting back to normal soon. No prom. No final performances. No end of the year celebrations. No way for the school year to be what you hoped it would be.

Now, we know that across the world, even in our own community, there are people dealing with more serious losses than school closings. But all the loss we are feeling right now are real, the loss of school years, the loss of occasions, the loss of treasured plans. What are you losing? What are you missing out on that you had hoped for?

Because we are in this season of losses, I guess I am hearing this resurrection story of Jesus in a different way. Maybe it's the news about the end of the school year, or maybe it's all the things that have been canceled recently, but the phrase that jumped out to me in this reading from Luke 24 is this one. These four words from verse 21 – **but we had hoped**.

Wow, if there was ever a phrase to sum up what we feel right now it's that one. But we had hoped. That describes so much of my feelings of loss. How about you? But we had hoped. That summed up the feelings of loss of these disciples, the ones who were on the road to Emmaus on that day, the day of the resurrection. They were on the road talking about what had taken place in Jerusalem. Jesus had been put to death, all seemed lost, all they had hoped for. And then in the midst of their sorrow the risen Jesus began to walk with them.

They didn't recognize him then. To them he was just a stranger on the road. And so they told this stranger everything that had happened, how they had hoped Jesus was the one to redeem God's people. But instead he was gone, put to death, buried in the tomb. Maybe there were bizarre reports about a resurrection. But they didn't understand that then. All they knew was – but we had hoped.

Until, until Jesus was with them at the table. And they broke bread. And their eyes were opened. And they knew that it was Jesus. And they rejoiced in a new hope. This is an amazing story. We can read this account of that resurrection day over and over again, and each time we will find new insights, new ways this good news speaks to us.





Faith at Home



But today I just want to give you permission to dwell, dwell with these two, the two on the road to Emmaus, in what you have lost, in what you had hoped. *Lord, here is what is happening. But we had hoped.* Let that be your prayer today. And then, and then I want to invite you to trust that the risen Jesus, the one who joined the disciples on the road to Emmaus and walked with them in their sorrow, is coming to join you in all you are feeling now.

In the story, the moment that these disciples of Jesus recognize him is at the table, when they

are breaking bread, when they are sharing a meal. And maybe right now, in this season of longings and losses, we can open ourselves up to recognize Jesus there too.

We haven't been able to gather as a congregation at the table, around the altar for the celebration of Holy Communion for many weeks. But the story from Luke doesn't suggest to us that Jesus is there only at that table. Might it be at any table, anywhere bread is broken and food is shared, anywhere that people give thanks for the meal set before them, that we can sense the presence of the risen Lord among us and feel our hearts burning within us? It could be. I really hope so. Because we need Jesus to be with us now.

Tonight, I am going to be together with my family at our table. And we will probably be talking about the end of the school year, and all we had hoped. And I want and need Jesus to be there. And I believe Jesus will be, by the power of the Spirit, to give us comfort and love and what we need to endure this season of disappointments.

And dear friends, it gives me hope, and it warms my heart, to know that you and so many other brothers and sisters in Christ, are also at tables and sharing meals believing that Jesus is among you too. Until we are back together to be fed at the holy table of our Lord, may you find some joy in the thought, and the images you see, of your friends in faith breaking bread together. And may we trust that every time we break bread and gather around the food that flows from the gracious hand of God, that Jesus is there to **renew our hope**. Amen.

Photos by Nathan Dumlao and Jeremy Yap on Unsplash

Questions to ponder about this week's Sermon:



What are you missing out on right now that you had hoped for?

How do you experience the presence of the risen Christ around your tables?

How do you feel your hope being renewed during this season?

Music Notes – May 2020



For the month of May, we're excited to be able to have drive-in worship together! There are other opportunities for worship as well, but I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to make it on Sunday mornings, even if from a distance.

When we'll be able to get back together for choir or bells is a complete mystery, but I'm looking forward to it! Still missing you all...
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.

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

MAY Your Days Be Merry and Bright...

Nope! It's not Christmas yet, but it is MAY, so here are some songs and quotes to brighten your days:

- *First of MAY* by The Bee Gees
- *End of MAY* by Michael Bublé
- *You MAY Be Right* by Billy Joel
- *Come What MAY* from Moulin Rouge
- *Maggie MAY* by Rod Stewart
- *MAY It Be* by Enya



May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive.
-Fennel Hudson

The world's favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May.
-Edwin Way Teale

As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer.
-William Shakespeare





In our Prayers

Current Needs

Barry Granda
Jean Hendrix
Melba Ivey
Thomas Kleckley (Oakleaf)
Wyman Kleckley (Presby. Home)
Cristie Ledford
Ben Linder
Ron Lindler
Tom Panyard
Warren Peebles
Rachael Rhoden
Sara Rymer
Linda Scott
Libby Wright

Homebound

Betty Baker (Carolina Gardens)
Barbara Brown
Les Caton (Brian Center)
Bruce Corley (Carolina Gardens)
Nellie Drafts
Nila Keisler (Lex Extended Care)
Thelma Kleckley (Oakleaf)
Jane Langston

Expecting Mothers

Anna Wingard

Military

Brett Creasman (Army)
Burton Flake (Army)
Matt Mayer (Air Force)
Rhett Oliver (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)
Hazel Halford (cancer, friend of Linda Scott)
Noreen Hamm (liver transplant, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Gene and Rosemary Hendrix (health issues, Hendrix family)
Esther Hempel (health, mother of Carol Hunter)
Ronnie and Pat Hinson (friends of Al and Carla Fallaw)
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)
Patricia Jeffcoat (leukemia, Janet Phillips cousin)
Kathy Keesling (Parkinson's, friend of Janice Sult)
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)
Roger Spires (surgery, friend of the Leaparts)
Robert Tolar (health and family, friend of Bob McCombs)
Claybourn Walters (health, cousin of Eileen Leapart)
Barney Weight (Alzheimer's, brother of Darlene Weight)
John Whiteside (cancer, friend of the Shaws)
Patty Wingard (cancer, mother of Greg Wingard)

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones

The family and friends of Dwight Corley who died at his home on Saturday, April 18
Bob McCombs upon the death of his mother Martha McCombs
Steve Swygert upon the death of his father Ernest Swygert

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

March 9, 2020

Chairman, Craig Balch, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. All council members were present along with Pastor Nathan and Walt Hampton.

Bridget Ridgell opened with devotions.

Joys and Concerns were shared by council. They also shared ways they had connected with God, each other and neighbors.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were presented. After two minor corrections, a motion was made to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and carried.

Executive Committee Report: To be presented with new business.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. Lenten services to be held each Wednesday evening. After the service the Youth will meet for small group discussions.

Reports from Ministry Teams:

Christian Education (Bridgett Ridgell) – Sunday School running smoothly.

Fellowship (Janice Sult) – Women's Lenten Prayer Breakfast will be March 28th.

Inreach (Donna Corley) – Planning luncheon for 275th Anniversary.

Outreach (Mary Nell Panyard) – No report. Still in search for a chairman.

Mutual Ministry (Sara Rymer) – Interviewing candidates for Starr's position upon her retirement.

Property (Ernest Beck) – Remainder of LED lights being installed by Dominion Energy which are more efficient than existing lights. A motion was made to complete the light project at a cost of \$2086.00. The motion was seconded and approved.

Stewardship (Anna Wingard) – No report.

Technology (Sue Anderson) – Ordered microphones for sanctuary and are improving the WIFI system.



Congregation Council

Music & Worship (Lee Caulder) – Thanked Walt for Safety Officer Schedule. Ushers will meet to discuss procedures during the COVID-19 virus.

Youth (Kathryn Barton) – Youth is meeting after Lenten Services. Prayer Partners luncheon after service on Palm Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS

Three members volunteered to attend the 2020 South Carolina Synod Assembly being held May 30 – June 1st. A motion was made to appoint Jamie Hampton, Walter Hampton and Janice Sult as Zion's voting members to the 2020 SC Synod Assembly. The motion was seconded and approved.

First Community Bank requested the authorized signors for Zion's account. A motion was made to designate Craig Balch, Betty J. Burn (Betsy) and Russell Grant as authorized signors for the Zion Lutheran Church account at First Community Bank. The motion was seconded and approved.

Council to designate Lenten offering recipients. A motion was made and seconded to designate the 2020 Lenten Offerings for Zion's Outreach Ministries including Matthew 25 Lunch Ministry, Mission Lexington, Snack Packs and others. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Abundancia Appeal was discussed. A motion was made to approve participating in the SC Synod Abundancia Appeal through worship presentations and a response Sunday on April 19, April 26 and May 3. The motion was seconded and approved.

Plans and Practices for a Time of Concern about Illness was distributed and discussed. Lenten and Easter schedule will remain as planned subject to changes as needed due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Corley



Communications

May Birthdays

1st Thelma Kleckley
Zack Grant
2nd Steve Shumpert
3rd Greg Sommer
Linda Kirszenbaum
Tyler Fox
4th Jan Corley
7th Donna Keisler
9th Janice Stoudemire
Wanda Wingard
10th Dianne Richardson
11th Marion Gunter
12th Matti Lou Kim
David Elrod
13th Layla Bateman
14th Paul Hook
Bill Mitcham
15th Ainsley Ellisor
Brenda Sommer
16th Craig Balch

17th Melba Ivey
Conner Rhoden
Carol Hunter
18th Holly Beard
19th Calvin Riley
20th Cooper Grant
21st Gary Varn
Libby Branham
22nd Jeannie Wingard
Mary Ann Bacon
25th Hugh Kyzer
Addison Ellisor
Chip Burn
27th Edward Corley
Molly McCombs
Mark Stoneberg
28th Wendy Nesmith
30th Clayton Hendrix
Maddie Richardson
Heath Branham
31st Jane Kohn

May Anniversaries

2nd Gary & Evelyn Varn
3rd Keith & Mary Ann
Bacon
5th Will & Anna Reeside
6th Marion & Bev Gunter
Heath & Julie Branham
7th Greg & Brenda
Sommer
12th Jerald & Margaret
Drafts
14th Henry & Bonnie
Phillips
16th Steve & Althea Hendrix
Ervin & Betty Shaw
17th Burns & Jan Corley
19th Charley & Karey
Hendrix
26th Wyman & Nila Keisler
29th Kevin & Karen Keisler
Joe & Linda Corley



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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) 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>