



**Zion Lutheran Church
April 2020 Worship Schedule**

**Sunday live 10:00 am on Facebook
Links posted to website and emailed**

**824 NE 4th Avenue Camas, Washington
Associate Pr. Susan A. Dollinger
360-834-4201 office
Email: info@zionluthcamas.org
Website: www.zionluthcamas.org**

Building closure

During this time that Zion is closed to all activities, we are keeping in touch with phone, email, Zoom meetings and online worship services. Please – if you are not receiving the weekly letter from Pr. Susan and link to the recent worship service, ***check that we have your correct email address.*** All correspondence is sent out blind copy, so your privacy is assured. If you'd like to visit with your Zion friends on Zoom, contact the church office to have a meeting set up. Zoom is designed for use on the computer or phone, where all participants are visible on the screen and can also hear each other. If you're familiar with Skype, this is the 2020 version of the idea. Email addresses for each person are necessary.

Contact information for Zion:

Mail:

Zion Lutheran Church
824 NE 4th Ave
Camas WA 98607

Email church office:

info@zionluthcamas.org

Pr. Susan: zionsusand@yahoo.com

Phone:

Church office: 360-834-4201
Ext 200 for Pat/general messages
Ext. 202 for Pr. Susan
Ext. 203 for a prayer message

The 200 extension mailbox is checked frequently; even though the office is closed, the office is operating from Pat's home.

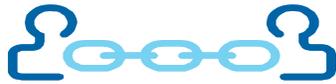
You may use the mail drop (a brass insertion in the brick) at the church for offerings or notes. It's located next to the office window on the 4th Ave side of the church.

Living Stones Raffle



The ELCA prison ministry congregation at Shelton, Living Stones, is again sponsoring a raffle to support their church. This year there are some changes – not one prize, but four! Grand prize of \$2020 cash, second prize of \$202 cash, and the third and fourth are handmade by the men themselves, a quilt and a piece of artwork. Another change is a 50% cut in ticket price!

Available May 8-26 at the Zion church office, tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. All proceeds benefit the Living Stones Prison Congregation. Bishop Rick Jaech will draw the winning ticket on Tuesday, June 16 (winner need not be present to win and will be notified that day).



Prayer Chain

Will & Gwen Edgerley, Alan Hansen, Beth Farrington, Mike Hughes, Joe Konzatti, Teresa Newton, Charlene Yoder, Steven Lee; Carrie Golladay, Dick Bishman, Charlie, Genevieve; for the family of **Eugene Chang** on his loss; for the **Ron Frick** family on his March 19 loss; for **Curt & Patti Edwards and family** on the loss of **Joe**; for **Bea Hull** in her isolation.

April Zoom Meetings

Confirmation Class	4:30
Mon/Thurs	6, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27
What's Brewing?	5:30
Tues	7
Book Club	1:00
Thurs	9
Council	4:00
Tues	21

If you'd like to visit with up to 25 people online at once, we're happy to work with you -- just let us know.

LOOKING

to God . . .

An unknown world, a country with no map – that's how life seems now. Daily routine is overturned and while we are impatient for the return of our comfortable cycles, we also

know anxiety, even fear, ever on our shoulders. We may not be the higher risk age or health status, but we all know someone who is. My times of prayer for these special people end with my entrusting them to God's care, only to snatch them back into my fear.

When that happens, the best comfort is to read "God loves me through to the other side" (Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez, *Christ in Our Home*, Apr. 1, 2020, Augsburg Fortress Press), or look at lilac buds that are just one example of a promising new life, or think about my church.

What has really brightened my days is the steadfast caring of this congregation. How truly named Zion! This unmovable mountain of faith in God, blossoming with acts of kindness and strength, has been visiting with each other on the phone, writing notes of encouragement, dropping off or mailing offering, keeping the eternal candle lit as a reminder of the always-present Lord, shopping for someone, sewing masks for the Peace Health staff, praying without ceasing, and letting me know you are caring for me as well as each other. God bless you all!

Pat Hagensen





*Yet who knows whether you have
come to the kingdom for such a time
as this?* Esther 4:14b NKJV

This verse from Esther keeps going through my head. This is a lot to take in. Recently, I sat in on an online pastor meeting of 50 traumatized pastors, probably much more traumatized from closing their church doors than from the threat of coronavirus. Everything about the coronavirus goes against our deep calling as pastors. Most of us will need to learn how to minister online. We will have to create technical skills that we never have needed before, and we just have to do everything differently.

The challenge of writing the *Messenger* article is that we have to write for the following month usually two weeks before that month happens, so we are predicting what will come next. Sometimes I have gotten it totally wrong. One August, I wrote for September saying something about how our kids are back in school now, and then there was a teacher strike and all the kids were still at home on summer break. So, I am letting you know that I am writing this on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, two days after a Sunday worship that didn't happen. Now our kids are out of school for six weeks, restaurants are closed, sports gone, Disneyland closed, and the worst, Powell's Books and the libraries have closed. I have no idea how to project into April today. Every day has felt like a lifetime has been lived.

So, today is more of a journal entry than a *Messenger* article -- perhaps just to try and make sense of all this. Normally, the *Messenger* would be filled with Easter things. Articles about the Easter egg hunt, Easter brunch and purchasing Easter lilies as well as Palm Sunday and Holy Week would be on every page of the *Messenger*. At this point, I truly do not know what the future holds. I do not know if we will have an Easter service in person or online. But we will have Easter service. And whatever day we come back together, that day will be celebrated as Easter Sunday in all its glory. But even in Lent, every day is Easter. We celebrate the risen Lord every day, Mondays, Saturdays and even on coronavirus-closed Sundays.

I hope by the time you're reading this we will have figured out how to hold worship online. Even better, I hope we're back together to worship in person by then. At this point in time we are all scrambling, we are all trying to figure which end is up, it is scary, it is frightening, but it doesn't change who we are at the core. We are a community

who cares for one another. Going online is just a new way to connect with each other. We are a community that takes care of its neighbor in the best possible way. Already there have been people stepping up saying they can help people with groceries or deliveries that are needed.

The blessing for me through this very strange time has been noticing the blessings. I am much more grateful for little things like toilet paper, for example. I am grateful every time I see hand sanitizer at the front of the store. I am very grateful that my kids are not at school; I feel that they are safer from the virus at home, and my daughter from college is home, so I get bonus time with her. I have been calling my parents more than I ever have before, and the hustle and bustle of crazy mornings is gone. I am learning new things daily, and I love to learn. And at the end of this I will be very technically caught up, or at least better at technology. And just like before I create art, read, study the Word, and pray.

We have all been called to such a time as this. And that calling is to create new things: new ways to do things, new ways to connect to others, and to find those things of old that it turns out are still very useful, like the telephone, and stamps.

We will get through it together as a community that starts today as every day: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In grace,
Pastor Susan

A Prayer in the Time of a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have minimal risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who are considered “non essential” workers, let us remember the health care providers, grocery store workers and others who must physically report to work each day.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

(Cont. page 7)



Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?"
Matthew 26:40

Holy Week is traditionally a time of high stress for pastors everywhere. This week I would welcome the traditional stress. Holy Week is also a usual time of frustration for pastors as you want people to be a part of the important walk to the cross with Jesus, and see only a half-filled room on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These days, of course, a half-filled room would be incredibly welcome. It's certainly a new perspective. I suspect, however, more people will view the services online than before, and that will take the sting out of it. At the same time, Lent is a time of reflection, a time of journeying with Jesus to the cross. Lent is a time to ask ourselves what that means for our own lives.

This Maundy Thursday, I will

be preaching to an empty room and Good Friday to a near-empty room. I suspect that will bring home the feelings that Jesus must have felt during that time: emptiness, despair, frustration, betrayal, and fear. The emptiness of the room will represent some of those feelings from all of us collectively now. Indeed, we are not in the places we normally would be. Certainly, the emptiness of a room can represent the loneliness Jesus must have felt, and it can echo the fear that many of us are feeling in our current situation. We are fortunate this Holy Week, now more than ever, to know the whole story, to know that there is something else that comes, something amazing, something life-altering. There is more to the story just around the corner. And we will celebrate Easter as we would to the best of our ability and every Sunday thereafter.

Cont. on page 7

Cont. from page 6

Our services will be live online worship (find us on Facebook at Zion Lutheran Church Camas ELCA). The services will also be emailed out as soon as we can.

7:00 PM Thursday, April 9
7:00 PM Friday, April 10
10:00 AM Easter April 12



Easter Online Communion

On Easter, I will be doing an online communion. If you have been in any worship service where I have celebrated Communion, you know that I take Communion seriously. Communion is about taking the Holy Supper in community with others. While it will be different on my end, and on yours, Zion will stand in community with each other on Easter, and we will take Communion together.

How to prepare for
Communion:

Before service starts, please have a small cracker or piece of bread in front of you, and a small sip of wine/juice/or some liquid. Holy Communion is small to remind us that even in the smallest of meals, Jesus does big things. I will provide instruction for Communion at the appropriate time during the service. If you are living with someone or others, please distribute Communion to each other.

Prayer in Pandemic

Cont. from page 5

May we who are losing our money margin in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

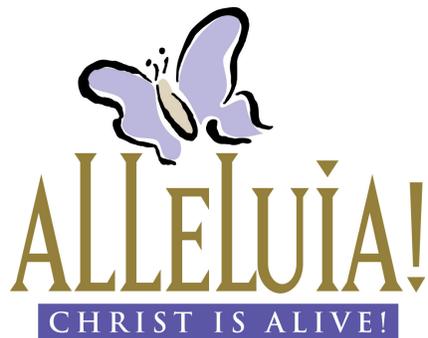
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

AMEN.

Contemplative Outreach



For as I can testify, they gave voluntarily according to their means... 2 Corinthians 8:3

As the Finance Team member of the Church Council, I'm very pleased to let you know that our congregation remains financially healthy, thanks in large part to the fact that many of our members are continuing their offerings even in the absence of in-person weekly services. All of us on the Council and the Parish staff are so very thankful (and humbled) by your faithfulness during this trying time.

As you may already have discovered, there are at least four ways you can continue to safely provide your offerings until we are able to resume regular worship services:

1. The most convenient for many is to simply mail your offering to Pat's attention at the church office.
2. Some of you with "auto pay" functions available to you have been setting up periodic payments by your bank directly to the church.
3. Some are bringing their offerings to the church and depositing them in the brass mail slot adjacent to Pat's window.
4. You may also use the church web site donation module for payments. This module allows you to use a credit or debit card, or to provide routing information for direct retrieval of your donation from your checking or savings account. You can access this module on the Zion website at <http://www.zionluthcamas.org/>. If this is the best option for you, please feel free to use it. Note, however, that the donation page is managed by a third party that charges the church a transaction fee for each donation.

Again, thank you for your continued faithful support during this very difficult time.

May God continue to bless us all and keep us safe.

Jim Bibler

Book Club meets

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 9th at 1:00 pm on Zoom to discuss *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman. Sandra Meeker will lead the commentary. On May 14, Pat Edwards will lead discussion on *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please check this out from the library or obtain your own copy.

June 11: Ursula Richards will lead discussion on *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.



Check library for availability or obtain your own copy.

From the Council President

Hello my friends,

I don't need to tell you how life has changed. I pray you and your family are healthy and well. Did you ever think we would be in a time we had to shut down Zion? Hard to believe it has happened. I am so grateful for Pastor Susan who has been amazing at bringing ideas on how we can still feel connected to each other, even with the building shut. The on-line worship services have been

worship services have been wonderful, and with music, yea! Also, I'm so grateful for the rest of the Zion staff; they have dealt so well with all the changes. The Zion Council met late in March, but we were able to do that with the Zoom app online that Pastor had shared with us.

I find myself liking the word PONDER. The meaning to me was "to think about". Out of curiosity I looked up the origins of the word. In Latin, pondus, ponder, meaning weight. Also Latin, ponderore, meaning weight, reflect on. In Old French, ponderer, to consider, appraise, judge the worth of.

I share this word with you because I have been doing a lot of it. (I seem to have some time on my hands.) I have been pondering big things, like the frustration and sadness of shutting the doors at Zion. And how long will it be that way? Pondering my relationship with Jesus -- do I spend enough time with Him? In His Word? In prayer? And I'm pondering the state of the country and my community.

I have pondered little things. Do I mop the floor or do laundry? Do you find yourself pondering?

Madlin Baltzell

"Great are the works of the Lord, they are pondered by all who delight in them"
Psalm 111:2

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Middle School Lock-In at Zion has been cancelled for Apr. 24th-25th. BUT -- it will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG) has been cancelled for June 25th-29th. It is the decision of the WSYG planning teams. They ask that we please accept their apology for having to deny an opportunity for the community of Christ to gather.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Zion is scheduled for June 19th-25th, 2020. We would like to continue to plan for VBS until the last possible moment. Stay tuned!

Holden Village Trip for Zion and Beautiful Savior is still scheduled for July 19-25th, 2020. Holden Village is not exempt from the disasters on our planet or the heartbreaks of the world. Currently, the Village is closed and remains under Governor Inslee's mandate. The hopes and prayers of Holden Village is that the summer schedule will be able to take place. Stay tuned!

Lite Side

At the beginning of a family dinner with a number of guests, the mother turned to her six-year-old daughter and asked her if she would like to say the blessing.

"I wouldn't know what to say," the child answered.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," her mother urged.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Questions to Ponder

Isn't it a bit unsettling to think that what doctors do is called practice"?

What should you do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

If police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

A man said to his sweetheart, "If we get married, will you be able to live on my wages?" She said, "Yes, but what will you live on?"

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



FINANCIAL DIGEST

FEBRUARY

BUDGETARY INCOME YEAR/DATE	66,805.77
BUDGETARY EXPENSES	38,569.99

BUDGETARY OFFERING MONTH YEAR/DATE

2020	27,643.84	66,805.77
2019	27,035.49	53,501.89

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON			# of Sundays	Avg/YR to Date
2020	611	1153	8	144
2019	446	994	8	124



Zion Lutheran Church Staff:

Ministers	Entire Congregation
Associate Pastor	Susan Dollinger
Youth Minister	Pam Ensley
Office Assistant	Sandra Meeker
Music Staff:	Karen Rezabek, Gary Ritter, Joan Vincent
Nursery Attendants	Emily McElhaney, Alexa Gaudio, Brooke Gaudio, Christina McElhaney
Sound Techs:	Nolan Purkerson, Reid Frank, Max Malcom
Custodian	Tye Cobb
Council Officers:	Pres. Madlin Baltzell Vice Pres. Leslee Froehlich, Sec. Laura Greulich
Administrative Assistant	Patricia Hagensen

The **Zion Messenger** is the monthly newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, located at NE 4th & Garfield, Camas, Washington. Worship services are at 9:00 am (traditional) and 11:15 am (contemporary). Pr. Susan A. Dollinger can be reached at 360-834-4201 ext 202 or 503-548-7997 (cell). Administrative office hours are 8-12:00 Mondays and 8-5:00 Tuesday - Friday. Email can be sent to info@zionluthcamas.org. The website is zionluthcamas.org. For youth & family ministry, the email address is youthminister@zionluthcamas.org.

***“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share
God’s saving grace for all.”***

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
CAMAS WA 98607
PERMIT NO. 42

Zion Lutheran Church
824 NE 4th AVE
CAMAS WA 98607

Change Service Requested