

# Messenger



**Zion Lutheran Church**      **Volume 74 Issue No 4**      **APRIL 2020**  
**Sharing God's care that all may know Jesus as their Lord, Savior and Friend.**

## LIVESTREAMING

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(SINCE WE CANNOT PHYSICALLY CONGREGATE WE ARE LIVESTREAMING VIA FACEBOOK AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES)

**PALM SUNDAY 10:00 AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 AM**

**REMAINING SUNDAYS 10:00 AM**

**AFTER EASTER WE WILL CONTINUE WEDNESDAY**

**VESPER SERVICES AT 7:00 PM**

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionMillwood>

WELCOME TO THE APRIL "MINI MESSENGER". AS WE ALL KNOW THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF ACTIVITIES SO THIS IS A LIMITED EDITION.

<b>Staff</b> Pastor Youth & Family Ministry Office Manager Contemporary Worship Organist Chancel Choir Director Zoo Crew Director Zoo Crew Teacher Lead Custodian Custodian Sound Tech	Tom Inch Pam Clark Terry Gross  Taylor Giese Jennine Harris Pam Clark Sandi Moore Ann Haseman  Geoff Williams
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<b>BOA</b> President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Communicator#1 Communicator#2	Terry Gross  Pam Clark Gerri Moore Robert Anderson Gary Burchill
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Our Help

What more needs to be said? How many times have we heard: “Stay home. Limit travel. Wash your hands. Stay alive”? The cycle seems endless and unstoppable. The number of reported cases is rising, exponentially. The number of deaths from Covid-19 appears to be following in good order. Shelter-in-place can quickly become forced isolation. Novel and not so novel ways of staying in touch are attempted to help us through this pandemic (remember the old-fashioned calling tree or even letters?). The words of the psalmist are more than appropriate:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me (us)?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.           Psalms 22:1-2

Having a sense of being overwhelmed at this time, I would think, is normal. So much of what is happening is well beyond our control. We place our trust in those authorities – medical and governmental – that they have our best interest at heart. We can only listen, stay informed, and practice those actions that are suggested to keep us, and those around us, healthy. But there is more.

Our contact with Psalm 22 is often limited to what we hear on Good Friday, when Jesus utters the first line as he is crucified. It is a cry to God in an untenable situation, the expression of his sense of being abandoned at a time that when he most needed God. The words of psalmist that Jesus uses are powerful, and real. A sense of abandonment has begun to set in for many – whether that feeling is directed towards God or towards others as we feel isolated and apart. The whole of the psalm is graphic in its appraisal of what it means to be abandoned, but...

Many of us have not read the whole of the psalm. I want to suggest that we do 2 things.

Read Psalm 22. Read it slowly. Allow the words to be your words, directed towards God, if you find yourself in this situation. But in your reading, I want you to notice something unique about this psalm. While it seems like a downward spiral, and it is, several times the psalmist stops and appeals to the past working of God, lifting up the delivery of God for the ancestors, and calls upon God to do the same for him and/or the people he prays for. Even amid a feeling of abandonment the psalmist knows better and appeals to God to be God, to do what God does best – redeem.

Read Psalm 23. I don't think that it is a coincidence that these two psalms are back to back. Even in a sense of abandonment, even when our head knows that God is a God of deliverance, and our heart is not quite there, the psalmist turns and presents a picture of God as the shepherd who cares and tends the flock, bringing them through danger (the dark valley) to the place of gathering where God will anoint (heal and identify) and serve.

Our hope – it is not in what we do but firmly in the hands and actions of God. We pray for God's action in this time of worldwide pandemic, we pray also for those on the front lines. We thank God that God is faithful, we thank God that God chooses to work through us.

God's peace, and comfort, be with you.

# ZION COUNCIL

March Averages:

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
2019 <u>103</u>	2019 <u>\$25,087</u>	2019 <u>\$29,970</u>
2020 <u>NA</u>	2020 <u>\$15,770</u>	2020 <u>\$23,068</u>
YTD income <u>\$53,517</u>	YTD expenses <u>\$67,831</u>	

**Council Purpose:** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The council met on Sunday, March 15th in response to the shelter in place order placed by the governor earlier the previous week. This is a repost of the original message sent out March 17th.

On Sunday, the council held an “emergency” meeting to address three issues as we enter this phase of the corona virus situation.

**First, how do we continue the ministry of word and sacrament.** As everyone is aware, all worship, studies and events are suspended until it is deemed safe to meet again. During this time, Pastor Tom will be sending out a meditation on Sundays, as well as Wednesday throughout Lent. It is our hope that we can resume worship by Palm Sunday, or later in Holy Week. We will communicate that out.

**Second, how do we care for each other.** We are concerned about those members who may not be able to get out, or because of risk factors, do not wish to go out. We also thought it would be a good idea to find a way to touch base with each other during this time. We will be putting a phone tree (remember those) together. The thought is that starting next Monday (March 23), the office will start the call chain to check on the first person. Each person then calls the next person on their list. The last person on the list calls the office to let us know the chain is completed. It’s a time to say hello, ask how people are doing and perhaps determine if anyone may need some support. We will be developing the phone lists this week and sending them out. We may not be able to physically fellowship together, but we can still touch each other in this way. You will receive the list via email, or regular mail for those without email.

**Third, what is the impact to the staff.** It was determined at this time to maintain pay for the staff through this time. Which does bring us to another point. We may have reduced, but daily office hours, so if you would like to mail in your offering, feel free to do so. This will help maintain our budget through this period.

Through it all, we ask that we lift in prayer, each other, our church and the world as we universally take this journey. This will be a good time to slow down and reflect on our faith.

**Romans 12:12**—*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

**LOOKING TO THE MOMENT AND MOVING FORWARD:** *For the duration of the stay at home order, we will live stream worship services. The schedule is on the front page. Pastor Tom is also looking into a remote bible study via some group platform.*

*The current situation has changed everything for the present and the near future, what the long term impacts are, no one knows for sure. It still doesn’t change the need of this congregation to determine what it’s mission should be going forward. This is one of the major things that the council and the congregation will have to look at in the coming months.*

*God’s peace to all and stay well*

Greetings,

During this time, I struggle about what to write about. The world as we know it took a sudden and drastic shift from what we consider “normal”. But, was our normal really the way normal should be?

Being forced to quarantine ourselves in our homes has made us slow down and given us time to perhaps reflect on things. I know I have picked up some books I have been meaning to read and have started on that. It also means some movie binging on Netflix, etc. And my shop has never been cleaner.

It also redefined how we interact. My grandkids all live in town, but right now, it’s video calls, not live visits. I visit my mother through a window at the facility she lives at.

It made us rethink personal space. When we must go out to get supplies, we are now conscious of keeping a six-foot buffer from other people. Grocery stores have lines marking the appropriate distance to wait at in the check out lines.

It also changed how we worship. Pastor sends out Messages and prayers (if you are not getting these, let us know, sometimes the email list is missing someone). We also tried our first live streaming worship Wednesday, April 1 and will be worshipping that way through the month. We do not sit together collectively on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings during Lent. We must do so in our homes.

I recently posted an article to our Facebook page titled “You Don’t Need to Open the Church by Easter” by John Pavlovitz (posted on page 5 here). In it he states: *“The church has never had anything to do with geography. It was never a building, never a fixed, physical location you visited for an hour on Sunday. That’s far too small a space to fit the vast and sprawling life it produces. The Church has always been the people who gather together to do the work of compassion and mercy and love and justice, regardless of where and when they gather. They are living, breathing, animated sanctuaries who house divinity.”*

So even if we cannot congregate and worship physically together, we can still practice our faith daily. Part of that means keeping yourself and others safe. It may mean reaching out to someone who needs comfort or perhaps even groceries, or currently, a roll of toilet paper. The point being, just because we are in this situation, it does not remove us from the body of Christ.

It also means we can pray for first responders, medical professionals, for those workers who still work to supply us with food, for parents stressed as they work from home and educate their children with the aid of teachers and schools who have to quickly adapt to a different way. We can pray for those who have fallen ill, and for those whose loved ones have died from this outbreak. We can all lift each other and our world up in prayer.

We as people and as the Church will come out the other side of this, things may look and operate differently than before, but the march of God’s army continues regardless of where we are.

Terry Gross

# You Don't Need to Open the Church by Easter

[MARCH 27, 2020](#) / [JOHN PAVLOVITZ](#)

The President said that he wants all churches to be open by Easter.

That isn't necessary.

He doesn't know what the Church is, or he'd speak differently.

It isn't him alone, of course. Many people who talk about the Church miss what's always been true—even many Christians.

The Church has never had anything to do with geography. It was never a building, never a fixed, physical location you visited for an hour on Sunday. That's far too small a space to fit the vast and sprawling life it produces.

The Church has always been the people who gather together to do the work of compassion and mercy and love and justice, regardless of where and when they gather. They are living, breathing, animated sanctuaries who house divinity.

In these terrifying, draining, disorienting moments, the Church is doing what it was always supposed to do:

Exhausted healthcare workers are on the front lines, boldly living out sacrificial love of strangers.

Courageous first responders are daily placing themselves in harm's way to care for their neighbors as themselves.

Grocery store employees are working tirelessly to fill ever-emptying shelves so that hungry people can have their daily bread.

Faith communities, nonprofits, and charities are rallying people and marshaling resources and redirecting energies to continue to love the least of these.

Heroic teachers are feverishly finding creative ways to shepherd well the children in their care, without physical proximity.

Emotionally and physically taxed parents are contenting with a swirling storm of fierce worries and unabated terrors, while being a calm, steady, gentle reminder to their children that they are beloved and they needn't fear. These are not all people of faith, but many are—and those people are being the Church now as much as ever, with the embodied hymns of and exhaled prayers and walking sermons that rise up in the brutal trenches of this life, when the compassionate love of Jesus is incarnated in their work and their words.

These things cannot be relegated to one place for one hour, they are the expansive holy ground of hospital rooms and store aisles and makeshift closet computer workspaces and dining room tables and wooded paths. They are the tiny yet mighty acts of goodness that no worship service can create or contain.

Whatever the work of Jesus was and is, doesn't require permission to begin and it is not beholden to any politician's decree and it isn't waiting quietly in a building to be unlocked and released—which is the greatest news for people of faith and morality and conscience who feel burdened to heal and feed and encourage and unite. That is happening in these very moments.

And that's the beautiful truth of these dark days: even in the middle of a terrifying pandemic, even when schedules are interrupted, even when chaos is ever-present, even when people are scattered, even when buildings filled with chairs and pews and class rooms are closed—the Church is still the Church and love is still love. Every day is Easter for those who are willing to see it. There is always life breaking through, always restoration happening, always resurrection taking place, always glorious rebirth happening, always miracles in our midst. If people who claim Christianity really want to care for our neighbors and we're really committed to loving the least and we're truly burdened to heal the wounds of the world, we'll keep the religious buildings closed for as long as the doctors and scientists tell us to. We won't worry about timetables or deadlines because they are of little use.

The Church doesn't need to be open by Easter. The Church is already open.

Hallelujah and Amen.

Helen Skindlov shares the following with us:

A prayer I found in The Message Devotional Bible, written by Pastor Eugene Peterson

**Dear Christ,**

**Help me to understand what it means to be your body,**

**Help me to value both the unity and diversity you are nurturing there.**

**Help me to be a good member of that body, Lord,**

**to be a healthy and vital member,**

**seeking to give rather than receive,**

**seeking to serve rather than be served,**

**seeking to encourage rather than be encouraged.**

**Keep my disappointments with the church from distancing me from the church.**

**Show me something of your grace that is at work there,**

**and something of it that is at work in me.**

**In Jesus name, Amen**

## BIBLE STUDY

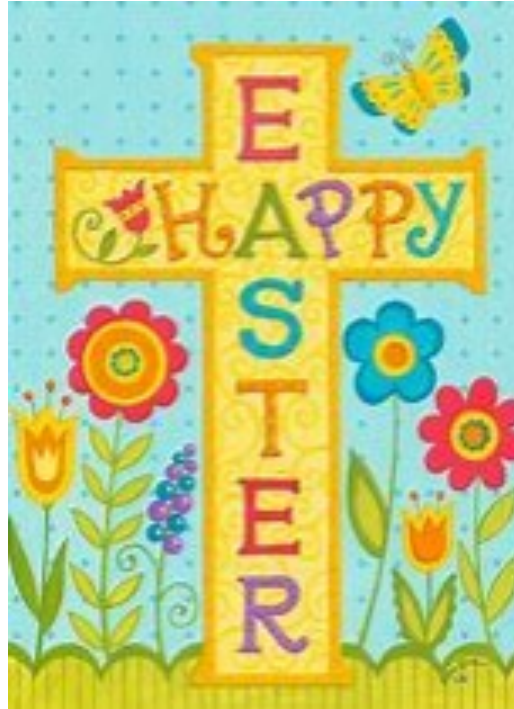
If you are interested in trying to do a bible study via a livestream or online conference platform, send your contact information to Pastor Tom at [Inchworm57@gmail.com](mailto:Inchworm57@gmail.com).

Similar to livestreaming the worship, but with interaction between him and participants.





<b>2</b>	<b>Destinee Davis</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ken Melaas</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Nancy Rush</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Pr. Mary Daniels</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Ruth Lenke</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Hanna Law</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Tracie Schillinger</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Debbie Repp</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Barbara Pruitt</b>



<b>3</b>	<b>June &amp; Cecil Rust</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sharon &amp; Ray Drake</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Lois &amp; Steve Fry</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Edward Peters</b>

## ZOO CREW

Registrations for the 2020-21 class will be available soon!!



## LESSONS FOR APRIL 2020

DATE	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY	ISAIAH 50:4-9	PSALM 31:9-16	PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11	MATTHEW 26: 14-27:66
APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	EXODUS 12:1-14	PSALM 116:1-2,12-19	1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26	JOHN 13:1-17,31-35
APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY	ISAIAH 52:13-53:12	PSALM 22	HEBREWS 10:16-25	JOHN 18:1-19:42
APRIL 12 EASTER	ACTS 10:34-43	PSALM 118:1-2,14-24	COLOSSIANS 3:1-4	MATTHEW 28:1-10
APRIL 19 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER	ACTS 2:14,22-32	PSALM 16	1 PETER 1:3-9	JOHN 20:19-31
APRIL 26 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	ACTS 2:14,36-41	PSALM 116:1-4,12-19	1 PETER 1:17-23	LUKE 24:13-35



Zion Lutheran Church  
8304 E Buckeye  
Spokane, WA 99212

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Dated Material      APRIL 2020 Newsletter**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sharing God's care that all may know Jesus as their Lord, Savior and Friend

**Newsletter Deadline**  
**Deadline for May newsletter is April 22.**

**Contact Us**

**Zion Lutheran Church  
8304 E Buckeye  
Spokane, WA 99212  
509-926-5407**

**For Directions right click and open link below**

**[https://www.bing.com/maps?  
q=zion+lutheran+millwood&FORM=HDRSC4](https://www.bing.com/maps?q=zion+lutheran+millwood&FORM=HDRSC4)**

**Email: [office@zionlutheranspokane.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranspokane.org)**

**Pastor Tom Inch  
Cell#: 509-398-0258  
Office Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. ,noon to 12:30 lunch,  
Close 4:00 p.m.**