



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

## April 2020

### Pastor's Corner

#### Peace of God Which Surpasses All Understanding

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice . . . do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* — Philippians 4:4-7

What does it mean to have “peace”? Maybe we have peace when we are healthy. That makes sense. When we are healthy, our bodies feel peaceful. Maybe we feel like we have peace when everything is going well at work, or even when we have work. Being out of work, or not having steady work, is stressful. Life definitely feels peaceful when work is going well. What about right now while many of us suddenly find ourselves mostly staying at home? Would you describe this as a “peaceful” time? People are very worried about getting sick. We are terrified of passing this mysterious illness to someone unintentionally. We are literally starting to look at everyone around us as the carrier of death itself. Would you say that is “peaceful”? Probably not.

In the passage above Paul said, “*Rejoice in the Lord always . . . Do not be anxious about anything . . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Funny thing about the circumstances under which Paul wrote this. When he wrote this, I don’t think we would say Paul’s life was exactly “peaceful.” Paul was sitting in a prison in Rome. On top of this, Paul’s health was not great, but that was alright. Paul’s health did not bring him peace, Christ did. Paul’s work was not always going well. Paul was constantly dealing with false teachers who threatened to take grace out of the church, but that was alright. Paul’s work did not necessarily bring him peace, Christ did. This is why Paul was so bold as to say, “*Rejoice always.*” It didn’t matter in what circumstance Paul found himself. Whether well fed, hungry or poor, Paul still had peace, because his peace was one that did not come from this world, his peace came from Christ. The peace Paul had was not dependent upon his good health or his poor health, his peace came from Christ. The peace Paul had was not dependent upon his work going well or poorly, his peace came from Christ.

As we finish up Lent and prepare for Easter, we see the peace Paul is talking about. As Christians, our peace almost has nothing to do with what is ongoing on in the world around us. Our peace is a lasting, eternal peace because the Son of God offered a perfect sacrifice for us on Good Friday, suffered for us, died for us, and rose from the dead for us three days later. Because of what Christ has done, He has mended our broken relationship with God the Father that was fractured all the way back in the Fall. We now have peace with God given to us by Jesus. This is why, like Paul, we may rejoice always. Our peace in Christ does not depend upon what is going on in this world. In fact, I would say our peace in Christ can be even more precious to us especially when this world around us seems to be crumbling. You have a peace in Christ that nothing in this world can ever snatch away from you; so important for us to remember, especially now.

— Pastor Grimenstein



## Mission Moment: Promoting Zion's Internal, Local, and International Missionary Efforts

### **A Coronavirus prayer for you, my beloved supporters and your loved ones**

Most Ancient of all Mysteries,  
Before Thy throne we lie;  
Grant us 'neath Thy Wings the place, ... especially as the coronavirus  
threatens us.

We fall on our knees, pleading for your mercy, to grant us Thy peace  
lest we lose this day of grace. There is no end which Thou canst reach;  
Have mercy now, Most Merciful; 'Ere that awful doom appear. So I  
bring to Thy throne of grace my beloved supporters from ages past,  
who behold Thy Face. Hear my cry, O Great Physician and heal them;  
body, mind, and spirit. Above all, protect them from every assault and  
scheme of the devil, from pestilence and sword. I pray this in Your  
Most Holy Name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen.



Fear not! Our Suffering Lord, who has suffered all of this and more, goes before you, and has  
promised not to leave you nor forsake you, but to be with you, especially as you observe this  
Lententide in the midst of this COVID-19 Crisis. Be at peace in the Lord!

You will continue to be in all of our prayers. God keep you all safe in Christ Jesus our Lord!  
Amen!

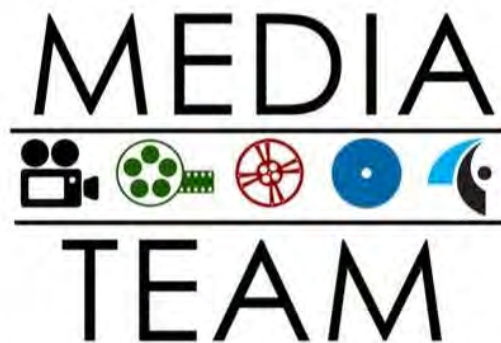
Sincerely in-Christ,  
Fr. Wokoma.  
1 Tim 1:15.



## Pastor Grimenstein

Praise God for a successful hip surgery on March 9th for Pastor Grimenstein, and for his continued recovery! After several days of rest and rehabilitation, he was able to resume leading worship services on March 25th, and most recently has been busy serving Zion members in a variety of ways during the current coronavirus pandemic.

Pastor would like to thank the congregation for the many cards he received and the prayers offered for him. They have been greatly appreciated!



### Zion is Starting a Media Team ... AND WE NEED YOU!

Online worship services have become more valuable than ever for Zion. Many of our members, and even non-members, utilize our live-streamed services when they can't attend worship, especially during the current virus pandemic.

We're looking for volunteers to work with Brent Miller, our webmaster and media technician, on live-streaming our worship services, then editing and publishing them online. Training will be provided and the role is open to anyone confirmation age and up! Contact [secretary@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org) if you are interested.

# Chairman's Report

## A Time for Everything ...

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven...(Eccl 3:1)

For some strange reason, it's always been easy to stumble around the middle of the Bible; Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes. I guess it was always easy to open the book up and start in the middle that is so rich with all sorts of hints of wisdom and lessons of life and such. Those four books really resonate, if you dare let them.

Your church is battling the foe. Like it or not, we've locked horns with the foe. We've put on the armor of the Lord and will live or die in the Word, but, fight on, we shall. It's not something we've signed up to do. It's what we were chosen to do when we were baptized. So, let's get on with it. If God is with us, who can be against us?

The worldly side of your church is in quite a conundrum. Unless we have the resources to maintain the ministries to which we dedicate our time and efforts, we shall be faced with difficult but necessary decisions in the coming weeks and months. Be assured that any decisions our Church Council makes are in the very best interests of the entire organization and are meant to be as supportive and helpful to the future of the ministries in our church and preschool as possible. There will probably be very real sacrifices to endure and hardships to bear if this crisis drones on through the summer and into the next school year. You can continue to contribute via the mail or on-line giving. Your heart-felt support is the life-blood of your church's ability to manage the worldly side of the equation so that the bills get paid and we are able to maintain our presence in the community as a rock of salvation.

Please remember Zion. Support your church however you can during the times of testing and turbulence. The damage this crisis is doing to the country is tremendous and all charitable organizations are struggling. Please stay informed by reading the weekly "eblast" emails and monthly newsletters.

Zion has a variety of options that you can choose from to stay connected with worship during this time: Our regular Sunday/Lenten/Holy Week worship services with added safeguards for distancing; Our small-group services of Prayer & Preaching (maximum of 8 worshippers per service) conducted 2-3 mornings each week; Our live-streamed Sunday/Lenten/Holy Week services and worship bulletins posted regularly on our website at [zlcb.org](http://zlcb.org). Feel free to call the church office if you have questions about any of these options.

Easter is upon us. He is risen indeed! The virus crisis can never change that fact and it's up to the Christians on Earth to remind the entire 7 billion souls that a Savior is Lord to all of them! We're that light shining the truth of Easter to anyone who will hear. There is a season for everything and it's the "season" of Easter!!! Let's try to remember that with Easter, our cups runneth over.

So, like the Psalmist wrote, "I will say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence...(Ps 91: 2-3)

Pray for all God's children, for the Christian church on this Earth, for your country and your parish here at Zion; and give thanks to the Lord for the saving Grace and Salvation created through Christ's sacrifice we celebrate and remember this Blessed Easter Season. Zion needs you...but, God owns you. Trust in the Lord thy God. Remember Zion.

— Paul Klemash



**In an effort to provide spiritual care to the most vulnerable in our congregation during the current pandemic, Zion will be adding three shortened, spoken Divine Services during the week. These new services will complement our already scheduled Sunday and Holy Week Services, and are being offered for our members whose medical conditions or age would make them more susceptible to the effects of the new coronavirus.**

- Services will be held from 10-10:30 am on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays and will extend for the duration of the pandemic. *During Holy Week, the schedule will be Maundy Thursday 10-10:30 am and 11-11:30 am; Good Friday 10-10:30 am and 11-11:30 am.*
- A MAXIMUM number of 10 persons will occupy the sanctuary at any given time (8 worshippers, 1 pastor, 1 elder). Congregational members will be seated by the elder in “reserved” areas in the sanctuary to maximize safe distance between worshippers.
- Participants should sign up via Sign Up Genius [here](#). Or, you may call Susie Bishop at 412-977-9066 to sign up.
- Communion will be offered to individuals/families as separate units in order to maintain a safe distance. An offering plate will be available in the narthex rather than passed.

**If you would like assistance signing up or have any questions, please contact Susie Bishop at 412-977-9066.**

***The Lord be with you,***  
**Pastor Grimenstein**





Lutherans  
For Life

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)  
888.364.LIFE



## March for Life 2020 — Lutherans For Life Was There!

By Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life, Lutherans For Life

Some are saying this year's March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 24 was record-breaking. In fact, rough estimates claim over 500,000 people showed up. I don't know if that number is true, but I can tell you that there were more people present at the March than I have ever seen present in one place in my entire life.

Priests and pastors and parishioners showed up. Churches carried banners, and schools played in bands. Dioceses and districts strolled side by side. God's people intermingled, forming a beautifully diverse tide of humanity that ebbed and flowed down Constitution Avenue.

Some sang. Some chanted. Most held signs. Everyone smiled. This sea of 4Life witnesses was united behind one pressing purpose: UPHOLDING LIFE.

And mixed into this ocean of cheerful, life-affirming people were approximately **150 youth and adults who attended Y4Life in Washington, D.C.** According to the students, the March and accompanying conference were more than impressive. They were inspiring. And for many, the entire experience was both life-changing and faith affirming. "I loved the sense of community at this conference!" one participant said; "I truly feel like my faith was renewed this past weekend."



The free conference began Thursday evening and ended Saturday at noon. Students were able to spend time with other 4Life youth from across the nation while they made posters for the March, engaged in devotions, and reflected on how they could support life in their own

communities. In addition to the March, high-school- and college-aged youth and adults learned about life issues other than abortion, issues that included teen suicide, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, sexuality, purity, and chastity. As created, redeemed, and called children of God, participants were reminded again and again that their lives matter and so do the lives of their neighbors.

It was a good weekend. Some might even say it was inspiring. And for some, like me, who saw just how passionate youth can be about supporting life, it was definitely life-changing and faith-affirming. If you'd like to attend or financially support Y4Life in Washington, D.C., next year, or if you would simply like more information, please contact me at [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org).

**A Lutherans for Life Regional Conference  
will be coming to the South Hills in September!**

**2020 LFL Regional Conferences**  
**From Invisible to Indispensable**

West Fargo, North Dakota - August 29  
Bethel Park (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania - September 26  
Peoria (Phoenix), Arizona - October 24  
Orlando, Florida - November 14



[www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

Stay tuned for more details!





## Campaign Update

We have been blessed to receive \$17,774.75 as of March 31st in our **Forward in Faith Kitchen Campaign** fund! Thank you to all those who have supported this campaign with your financial contributions, time or talents!

Due to the pandemic, factors such as the scheduling of contractors, availability of finances, and rescheduling of other important church events further into the summer, may necessitate a postponement of the kitchen renovation work until the summer of 2021. At this point, it is too soon to make a decision regarding whether to postpone the work, but the Forward in Faith committee will continue to keep members abreast of the situation. Since it is our goal to complete this project as soon as possible — whether this summer or next — we would appreciate your continued financial support as the Lord leads.

When giving, please keep in mind that contributions to **Forward in Faith Kitchen Campaign** must be in addition to your regular offerings. In the days ahead, if overall congregational giving takes a downturn due to the pandemic, we may need to suspend Forward in Faith giving for a time in favor of giving to more pressing areas of our ministry. Like other churches and organizations, Zion relies on regular giving through the offering plate, mail, and online contributions to meet the budgeted expenses for our facility and local ministries, as well as those of our Synod, as it reaches out with the Gospel on our behalf.

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## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

This month's collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is this Sunday, April 5th. The "items of the month" are rice, noodles, and beans. Items may be placed in the receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.

Due to the coronavirus, the Food Bank distributed pre-packaged bags of groceries curbside for its March distribution. At that time, 88 adults, 40 children and 68 senior citizens were served. Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

*Continuing Sunday school at home is a great way to show children the importance of “keeping our eyes on Jesus” during the coronavirus pandemic. Since our classes are unable to meet during this time, I encourage you to use the lessons that I am emailing so that you can read the Bible stories with your children, have Christ-centered discussions and pray together. Last week I sent out a link to these lessons via email, and I will also send a reminder email each Friday with a link to that week’s specific lesson. Lessons are from the Enduring Faith curriculum by CPH.*



*Blessings in Christ,*

*Katie Gielarowski  
Sunday School Director*



**Save the date!**

June 22 – 26, 2020

9 am - Noon

## **Become a Volunteer and Make a Difference Today!**

Our Lutheran senior living organization — Concordia Lutheran Ministries — needs volunteers during the current health crisis to support the needs of residents. An immediate need is for volunteers in our **Tele-CareGiver Program**. Concordia’s Tele-CareGiver Program is a free service that utilizes volunteers who make daily phone calls to homebound individuals as a daily “check-in” and friendly voice of reassurance. With more homebound individuals than ever due to social distancing, Concordia wants to ensure that anyone who wants to use the program is able to (this means Concordia residents and patients as well as anyone in the community who does not live at a Concordia location). The program is operated solely by volunteers who make brief 2-3 minute calls from 8-10 a.m. M-F. If you are interested in learning more about being a client (who gets a call every weekday morning) or a volunteer (who makes calls every weekday morning) contact Ellen Milich at 724-352-6260.







## What About...

# Lutheran Worship

### Why does our Lord gather us for worship?

The most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us are His forgiveness, life and salvation. Through His innocent life and bitter sufferings and death, Christ has purchased and won us from sin, death and the devil. Through Jesus Christ, all the sins of the world were paid for and the wrath of God was appeased. Christ has reconciled the whole world to God.

Jesus Christ serves us again and again as His Gospel is proclaimed, as His people are baptized and as His Word is read. He serves us as His forgiveness is pronounced and penitents absolved. He serves us as He gives us His body and blood under the bread and wine to eat and to drink. This is how our Lord gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. What a blessing it is to be called and gathered for worship by our good and gracious God!

### What is at the heart and center of Lutheran worship?

Lutheran worship puts the focus squarely on Jesus Christ, who is present for us and with us through His Word and Sacraments. Lutheran worship is, therefore, Christ-centered, not man-centered. When we are gathered for worship, we are not contemplating some far-off Christ or meditating on abstract concepts, or pondering various principles for living. Neither are we in church to be amused or entertained. Christ is living and active among us, right where He has promised to be in His Word and Sacraments. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, to the very end of the age". (Matt. 28:20). When He gathers us around His Word and Sacraments, He fulfills this promise to us once again.

### What is the basic pattern or "rhythm" of Lutheran worship?

Here is how our hymnal *Lutheran Worship* describes it: Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. ... Saying back to Him what He has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. ...The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one

another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

### What does "Divine Service" mean?

Historically, the phrase used to describe Lutheran worship is Divine Service. This helps us understand the rhythm of worship—that it is first and foremost God serving us with His gifts, and then our service to Almighty God in thanksgiving and praise for all He has done. This rhythm of God giving His gifts and our giving Him thanks is conveyed aptly in the term, Divine Service.

The Divine Service is a "holy" time, meaning a time "set apart." It is a time to be set apart from the workaday world—a time to spend with our Lord. Indeed, in the Divine Service we are gathered together in the presence of the holy, almighty, every-living God, and thus we are part of a time for "heaven on earth," as our Lord forgives our sins and gives us new life today, and eternal salvation with Him forever. This understanding of the Divine Service explains why many who experience Lutheran worship for the first time describe it as dignified, reverent and sacred.

### What does Lutheran worship look and sound like?

Lutherans use orders of service common throughout the history of the Western church. The two main parts of the Divine Service are (1) the proclamation of the Word of God, and (2) the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

In Lutheran services, pastors and congregations sing or speak the liturgy back and forth or together. Congregational singing of hymns has always been a hallmark of Lutheran worship. The best of musical traditions, both ancient and modern, are embraced by the Lutheran church in its worship, with an emphasis on congregational singing.

Our pastors wear special clothing called vestments that cover the individuality of the man and emphasize the sacred duties of the pastoral office. Throughout the course of the church year, an appointed order of readings and prayers helps the congregation focus on the major events in the life of Christ. Preaching, usually based on the appointed lessons, is a hallmark of Lutheran worship, distinguished by a clear presentation of God's Law and Gospel.



What About...

## Cont'd .... Lutheran Worship

Lutherans may stand, bow or kneel at various points in the service to express reverence and devotion to the almighty Triune God. Pastors make the sign of the cross over the people, and the people may sign themselves with the cross at various times as well.

Lutheranism has continued to make use of beautiful ecclesiastical art such as statues of Jesus, the apostles, and other important figures in the Bible or church history. You will find in many Lutheran churches altars, candles, paintings, statues, crucifixes, symbols, and other forms of art and decoration. All of these lend beauty, dignity and reverence to the service. They help us to focus our attention on Christ and His gifts. Some Lutheran churches are elaborately decorated and ornamented; others are more plainly adorned. We make no fixed rules about such things. We rejoice in our Christian freedom to use all manner of reverent artwork and decoration to glorify and praise God.

### How does Lutheran worship reflect Lutheran theology?

How a church conducts its worship is a reflection of what it believes, teaches and confesses. It is difficult, therefore, to retain the substance of Lutheran theology while at the same time embracing non-Lutheran styles of worship. It is important to remember that Luther sought to reform—not to reinvent—the church and its worship. He knew that the Gospel was the heart and center of the Divine Service. He changed only what contradicted or diminished the Gospel. Luther never did away with faithful, Gospel-centered and historical worship practices and ceremonies of the church.

### Why are common orders of service in our Synod such a blessing?

There are two extremes to be avoided in answering this question. The one extreme would be the view that every congregation can do whatever it wishes, however it wishes, without any regard for the other congregations of our confessional fellowship. The opposite extreme would be the view that everyone in the church must do precisely the same thing every Sunday, without any deviation, variety, change or difference. Neither of these extremes is appropriate or acceptable, and certainly not Lutheran.

Our Synod has always been concerned that—for the good of the church—uniformity in liturgical practices be maintained so that we confess our distinct, unique Lutheran faith boldly in a country where our church is surrounded by so many non-Lutheran churches. Uniformity in doctrine is reflected in uniformity in practice. Our Synod's first president, Dr.C.F.W. Walther, had this to say about the value of uniformity in worship practices:

We are not insisting that there be uniformity in perception or feeling or taste among all believing Christians—neither dare anyone demand that all be minded as he. Nevertheless, it remains true that the Lutheran liturgy distinguishes Lutheran worship from the worship of other churches to such an extent that the houses of worship of the latter look like lecture halls in which the hearers are merely addressed or instructed, while our churches are in truth house of prayer in which Christians service the great God publicly before the world. Someone may ask, "What would be the use of uniformity of ceremonies?" We answer, "What is the use of flag on the battlefield? Even though a soldier cannot defeat the enemy with it, he nevertheless sees the flag where he belongs." We ought not to refuse to walk in the footsteps of our fathers.

### Conclusion

As we find ourselves being gathered by our Lord for worship at the dawn of this new millennium, we realize that we join our song with angels, archangels and all the company of heaven from millennia past who are gathered before the Lamb upon His throne and worship Him both day and night. As our Lord gathers us for worship Sunday after Sunday, we join the entire company of heaven in praising our good and gracious God. The saints on earth and the saints in heaven praise Him who is the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega, even our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns as one God, world without end.

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13).

Dr. A. L. Barry  
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# April Birthdays

4th — David Hutula  
6th — Barbara Fisher  
6th — Mildred Thielet  
7th — Sandra Quinlan  
8th — Rae Murphy  
11th — Lydia Grimenstein  
14th — Ryan Albert  
18th — Lauren Liberatore  
18th — Ava Pasquini  
18th — Louis Schrecker  
22th — Joan Cisko  
23th — Norman Dill  
24th — Brittany Dill  
25th — Michael Kroeger  
25th — Mike Wallace

27th — Sarah Grimenstein  
27th — Andrew Weldon  
28th — Bob Schmidt  
28th — Bethany Schrag  
29th — Ryan Harris



# April Anniversaries



7<sup>th</sup> Tim & Carrie Albert  
14<sup>th</sup> Chuck & Debbie LaJeunesse  
18<sup>th</sup> Dale & Alice Miller  
26<sup>th</sup> Carl & Karen Bauer



# April 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service	2 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service  7:30 pm Elders Meeting online	3	4 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
<b>5 PALM SUNDAY</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Communion  10:30 am Worship w/ Communion  FOOD BANK COLLECTION	6 6:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation online  7:00 pm 2nd Year Confirmation online	7	8	<b>9 MAUNDY THURS</b>  10:00 am Small Group Worship Service  11:00 am Small Group Worship Service  7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>10 GOOD FRIDAY</b>  10:00 am Small Group Worship Service  11:00 am Small Group Worship Service  7:00 pm Good Friday Service	11
<b>12 EASTER</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Communion  10:30 am Worship w/ Communion  	13	14 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service	15 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	16 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service  7:00 pm Council Mtg	17	18 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
19  8:00 am Worship w/ Communion  10:30 am Worship w/ Communion	20 6:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation online  7:00 pm 2nd Year Confirmation online	21 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service	22 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	23 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service	24	25 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service
26  8:00 am Worship w/ Communion  10:30 am Worship w/ Communion	27 6:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation online  7:00 pm 2nd Year Confirmation online	28 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service	29 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	30 10:00 am Small Group Worship Service		



Sunday morning worship at 8:00am and 10:30am



Zion Lutheran Church

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