

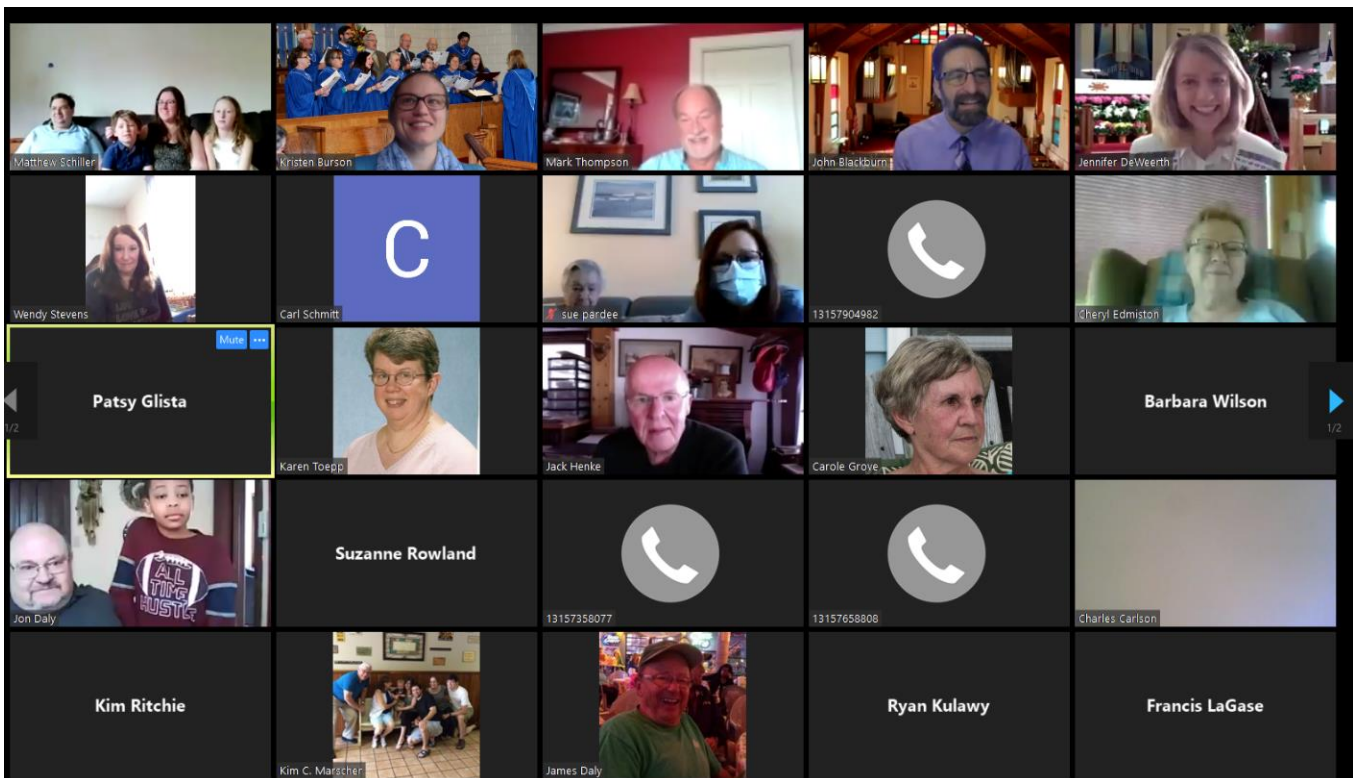
2 Easter Leadership Letter

To our Sisters and Brothers of Zion Lutheran Church,

He is risen indeed, Alleluia! It was such a joy to see many of you tune in to our Easter service this past week as we joined together on Zoom for the first time.

Here are some updates from the week past:

- 38 households joined together for the Easter service by computer and phone this past Sunday. Others joined us in worship by following the virtual service from the service of the Word template. A big thanks goes to Pastor Jen DeWeerth who led the service, John Blackburn who served as the reader, Jim and Kim Marscher who coordinated the organization of the service, Sara Silva who put together the bulletin, and to all who showed up to celebrate this joyous day! A highlight of the service was the Easter Song montage put together by Shawn Lockwood, which can now be seen on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvzDYzFJa5w>. Below is a picture of us together on Sunday – there were so many of us that we didn't all fit on one screen! So, we apologize if you aren't pictured!



- Displays were put up at Zion throughout Holy Week thanks to the Altar guild, especially Jeanne Gymburch, Laurel McCurdy, and Wendy and Mike Stevens. Photos of the display are included following this letter.

- Easter drawings were offered by Grayson, Emilia, Isabel, Benjamin, Isabel and Jayden. Photos are included following this letter.

How can you serve our church community and the broader community in the coming weeks? Here are some ideas:

- We are looking to continue our online services via Zoom when possible. This week you can join the service by using the Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82098838543?pwd=YzZtSVMrSEljUzhSWms3S0JCbkdkUT09>, using the Meeting ID: 820 9883 8543, and Password: 017493. Zoom also allows the opportunity to join by phone (+1 301 715 8592). Do you want to help with the service? Do you feel comfortable being a reader? A Zoom technology coordinator? Searching for high-quality options for YouTube hymns? Please contact Jim and Kim Marscher, who lead our worship and music committee, to volunteer! Kristen will provide Zoom training for any interested readers.
- Continue to connect with Zion members over phone. In this time where we must remain physically distant, we can still be socially and spiritually close. Personally, I have been greatly heartened by these connections.
- Thank an essential worker, whether in your own household or in the broader community.
- Would you be interested in leading a Bible study, coffee hour, or fellowship opportunity over Zoom? If so, please contact Sara Silva to schedule your event.
- Kids, if you create artwork based on the weekly scripture, we would love to share it in these letters or on our Facebook page.

To close, I am reminded of the verse from Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Personally, I am moved by the ways that God is working in our midst. God's grace and mercy, manifest in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, gives us cause for celebration even in times of trial. May our faithful God bless you this week.

With appreciation for our Zion family,
Kristen Burson and Mark Thompson
Church council co-presidents



2 Easter – April 19, 2020

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy, and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **We confess that we are captive in sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* Vs. 1 & 4 –Mary Senn

Vs. 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia alleluia alleluia alleluia alleluia!

Vs. 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-32

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sermon *Believing the Wounds* –Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **Amen.**

Anthem: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Me* –Bradbury/arr. Buda

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit especially: those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, Paul, Gail, Fran K, Edie Marie, Suzee, Michael Gillece and family, Donna B., Debbie, Diane, Caryn, Claudia T., David H., Linda W. & family, Your

Neighbors clients, Dave, Jordan, Alison, Theresa, Barbara C., residents of the Presbyterian Home, Ed & family, Paul Van Allen, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the table

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken unto the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: *Thine Is the Glory* Vs. 1 & 3 –Mary Senn

Vs. 1 Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory tho o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where they body lay. Son; endless is the victory tho o'er death hast won!

Vs. 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life: life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through they deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to they home above. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory tho o'er death hast won!

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Please enjoy this poem provided to us by Cheryl Edmiston, author unknown

Twas late in '19 when the virus began, Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full, Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring, the virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen. They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached, and churches were closed. "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out. No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," they proclaimed. "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went. The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday, and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling. "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

"That noise," said the world, "would be something to hear." So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant! It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes. Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small, was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine Stood puzzling and puzzling. "Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, it came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before. "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Easter,
perhaps, means a little bit more."

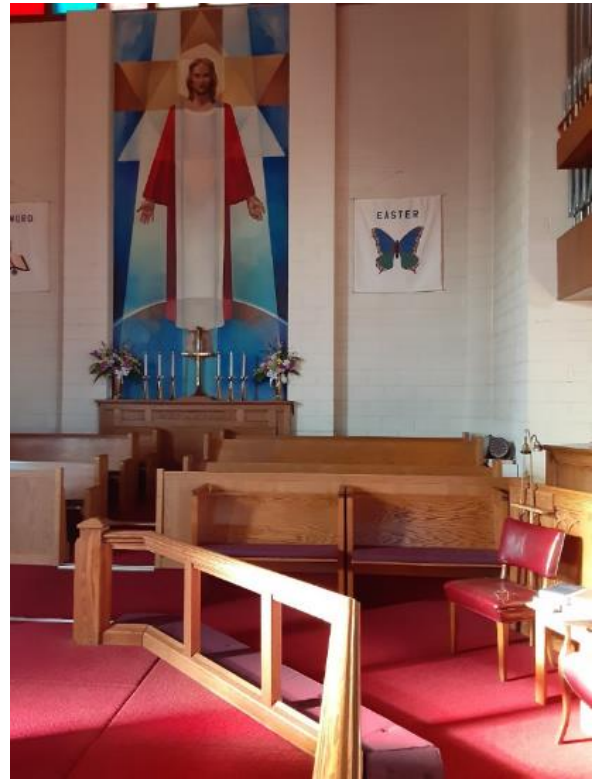
And what happened then? Well...the story's not done. What will YOU do? Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night? Will you share of the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom.

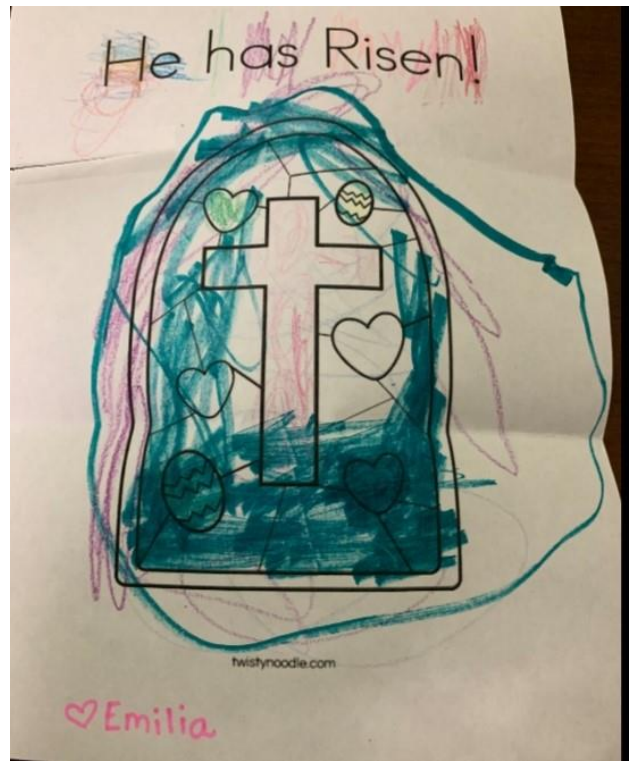
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

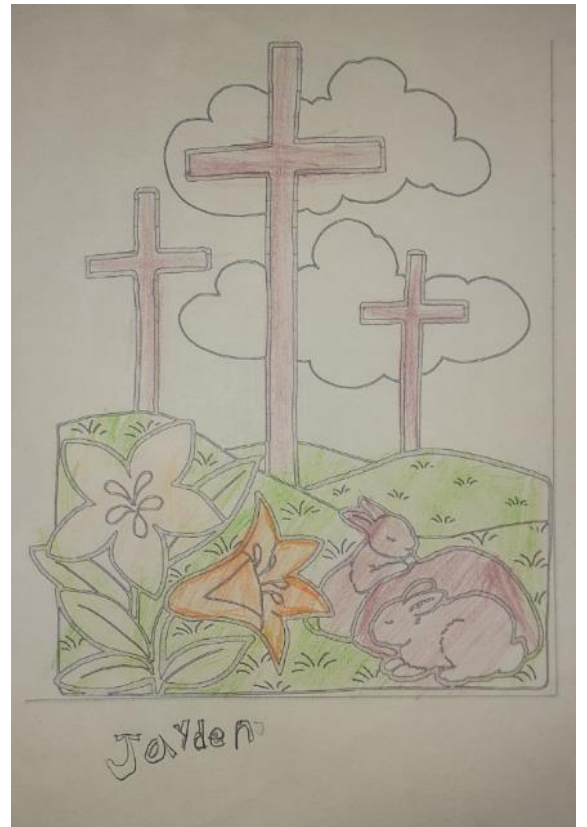
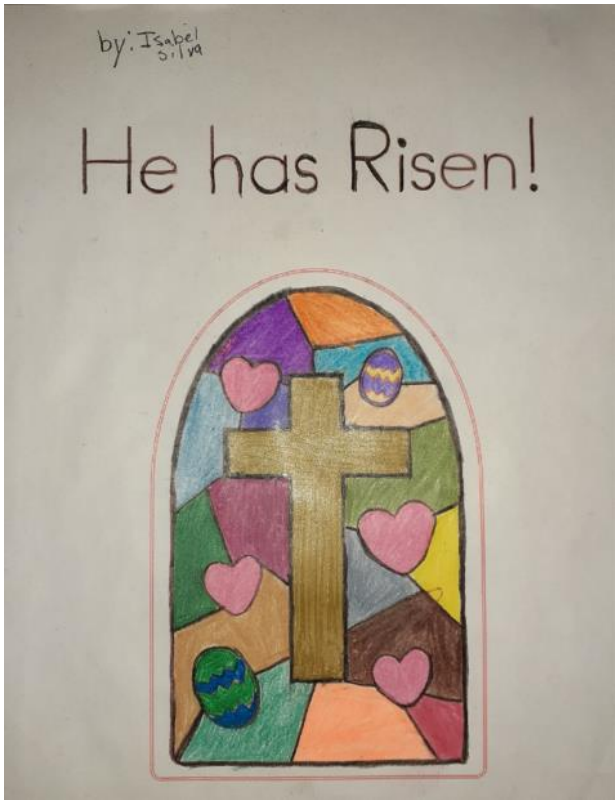
May the world see hope when it looks at God's people. May the world see the Church is not a building or steeple. May the
world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, May the world find Joy in a time of dejection. May 2020 be known as the
year of survival, but not only that - Let it start a revival.

Zion Lutheran Church was ready for Easter!!!
Thank you to our Altar guild for doing this!



We hope you enjoy these next few pages of Easter coloring sheets from the children!
Thank you to Sue Pardee for taking the time to provide these.





Great job, kids!!!