

## Easter Sunday Leadership Letter

To our Sisters and Brothers of Zion Lutheran Church,

This week we enter Holy Week, the last week of our Lenten journey, with the promise of Easter joy awaiting next Sunday. As I listened to the joyful shouts of Hosanna in the Palm Sunday gospel reading, I found myself reflecting on the roller-coaster of a week that Jesus' followers were about to enter: an entry march to shouts of Hosanna, Passover holiday celebrations, fervent prayer, death, denial, resurrection. What a turbulent week! In this time that can feel turbulent, the Holy Week texts also speak to what it means to be Christ's followers today: that God's love is steadfast, that God's promises are true, and that God's goodness is radiant. We hope that you will find some holy moments to share and experience God's love and goodness in the midst of your daily experience this week.

Here are some updates for the week ahead and news from the week past:

-We hope that you will be able to join in our Holy Week worship opportunities:

1. This coming Sunday, Zion will hold its first online video service for Easter worship using Zoom. Rev. Jen DeWeerth will be leading the service and the service will also incorporate lessons read and the Easter Song, a long-standing Zion tradition. You can join the service by using the Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/787389628?pwd=VWE3VWtKRfZZUHNoallNeDRGTUN4QT09> if needed, the Meeting ID is: 787 389 628, the Password is: 026170. Please feel free share this link information with your family or friends who would typically join you for the Easter service. Zoom allows the opportunity to join by phone, 1-646-558-8656, or with video from your computer, smart phone, or tablet by downloading the Zoom app in advance. This service will be recorded and then available on Zion's website in a few days.
2. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services both at 7 PM are being offered through Our Saviour Lutheran Church. See the attachment for the Hymns and Readings. The Maundy Thursday Zoom link is: <https://nthrive.zoom.us/j/3710436068>, Meeting ID: 371 043 6068, the Good Friday Zoom link is: <https://nthrive.zoom.us/j/459751838>, Meeting ID: 459751838, and Unity Lutheran Church in Wisconsin, former church of Kim and Jeff Ritchie (<https://unitybrookfield.org/livestream.php>)
3. The virtual service at Zion can be followed using the attached Service of the Word template. In addition, you will find the listing of the Holy Week readings and the prayers of the people in another attachment.
4. The Upstate NY Synod will be having a Good Friday service at 12-noon. To join, visit their website at: <https://upstatenysynod.org/>, click on Virtual church resources. Also on their website, the Synod will be airing a compilation of Jim Marscher & Katie Lockwood's Easter Songs!

-We have worked with our partners at the YMCA to provide appropriate accommodations in our rental relationship during this volatile time. Hank Leo, CEO of the Greater Tri-Valley YMCA, wrote to Zion to express their thanks, sharing "We appreciate your support very much, which helps considerably."

-A display of palms was put up in Zion in celebration of Palm Sunday. Thanks to Bob and Bonnie Loomis for donating the palms "To the glory of God" and as a thank you to Sara Silva. Thanks to Jeanne Gymburch and Laurel McCurdy for the display.



-We have purchased a Zoom account for Zion to support the Easter service and to create additional opportunities to meet and connect during this time when we cannot meet physically. In addition to providing a platform for holding worship and committee meetings, this opens up the possibility to hold virtual bible studies and small group meetings. If you've been missing bible study, the retirement tea, or fellowship opportunities and would like to organize and schedule a meeting for Zion members using the Zion Zoom account, our wonderful office manager Sara Silva stands ready to assist! If you would like to communicate with the office/Sara, please send a letter to her via Zion Lutheran Church, 630 French Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413, or leave a message on Zion's webpage ([www.zionlutheranNy.org](http://www.zionlutheranNy.org)).

- "God's work. Our hands" continues at Zion. We are deeply grateful to many members who are offering their time and talents in new ways to carry out God's work during this time: phone tree volunteers, those offering technological and musical gifts for our upcoming Easter service, those who serve our community on the front lines in essential employment, and all who join in worship and prayer with our community each Sunday. Please let us know if there are ways you can help, such as donating supplies or organizing a bible study. Although we cannot meet in person at this time, your monetary offerings to support this ministry can still be sent to Zion by check, tithely (found on our webpage under Donate tab), or by direct payment via your bank.

To close, I am reminded of the Easter hymn: "Now the Green Blade Rises", which celebrates the newness of life, and the words of Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." I am heartened by the new things that God is doing through Zion during this time of social distancing. Let us continue to hold to our hope in God and support each other in the weeks ahead. Wishing you a joyous Easter and hope to 'see' you Sunday!

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



Thanks to Jeanne Gymburch and Laurel McCurdy for creating the Last Supper display, which stands inside the front door at Zion.



## Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### 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 arched, 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.**

#### Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE WORD

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:1-6 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jeremiah+31%3A1-6&version=NIV>

**Second Reading:** Acts 10:34-43 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+10%3A34-43&version=NIV>

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:1-10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A1-10&version=NIV>

**Sermon**            *Empty Tomb*            –Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth

## 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.**

## 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.

For the people directly affected by coronavirus and dealing with symptoms, for the students, teachers, doctors, nurses, and medical supporter staff, and first responders on the front lines. May the light of Christ shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for all those people in essential positions that continue to provide food and necessary services: police officers, fire fighters, EMT's, post office workers, grocery store workers and farmers, sanitation workers, and everyone else who helps us deal with the basics of dialing living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the creative and helpful service of worship leaders this day: musicians, worship assistants, preachers, readers, and all others who provide welcome and hospitality in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We recognize and are uplifted by the random acts of kindness demonstrated by so many people every day all around the world, help us to remember those especially vulnerable at this time and extend your loving hands to them. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence. 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, Lydia, 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, 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.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died. Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. 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.**

### **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!**

### **Blessing in the Chaos**

To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence.

Let there be a calming of the clamoring, a stilling of the voices that have laid their claim on you,  
that have made their home in you,

that go with you even to the holy places but will not let you rest, will not let you hear your life  
with wholeness or feel the grace that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you cease. Let what divides you cease. Let there come an end to what diminishes  
and demeans and let depart all that keeps you in its cage.

Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace  
you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.

*–Jan Richardson (from A Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings in Times of Grief)*

**Happy Easter from your Zion family!!**

*Treasurer's Reports*

		<b>February 2020 Treasurer's Report</b>		
	<b>Feb 2020</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/Under Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	\$ 21,981.00	\$ 35,136.00	\$ 28,615.40	\$ 6,520.60
Other Income	\$ 5,484.15	\$ 9,542.45	\$ 7,633.40	\$ 1,909.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 27,465.15</b>	<b>\$ 44,678.45</b>	<b>\$ 36,248.80</b>	<b>\$ 8,429.65</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 12,569.43</b>	<b>\$ 31,116.53</b>	<b>\$ 42,134.78</b>	<b>\$ (11,018.25)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,895.72</b>	<b>\$ 13,561.92</b>	<b>\$ (5,885.98)</b>	<b>\$ 19,447.90</b>

		<b>March 2020 Treasurer's Report</b>		
	<b>March 2020</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/Under Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	\$ 8,229.00	\$ 43,660.00	\$ 47,750.00	\$ (4,090.00)
Other Income	\$ 2,269.16	\$ 11,516.61	\$ 9,577.50	\$ 1,939.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,498.16</b>	<b>\$ 55,176.61</b>	<b>\$ 57,327.50</b>	<b>\$ (2,150.89)</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 15,682.66</b>	<b>\$ 46,799.19</b>	<b>\$ 63,261.95</b>	<b>\$ (16,462.76)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (5,184.50)</b>	<b>\$ 8,377.42</b>	<b>\$ (5,934.45)</b>	<b>\$ 14,311.87</b>

Thank you for choosing Zion Lutheran Church  
 as your Church family, we love and miss all of you!  
 Your support is so appreciated.