

May Newsletter by Quaranting

Leadership letter for the Week of April 20-26, 2020

To our Zion Lutheran Church family,

We miss you! During the past two Sundays we have appreciated the opportunity to “see” many of you at our Sunday service via Zoom, along with knowing several members joined us “in spirit” as you followed along from home at 10:00 AM via the Service of the Word template provided in your weekly mailing. A huge thanks to Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth, John Blackburn, Jim and Kim Marscher, Sara Silva, Mary Senn, and Kristen Burson for making the Zoom service happen this past Sunday. We look forward to the day, and it will arrive at some point, when we gather together in person in our sanctuary. On that day our worship together will just be that much sweeter. Until then, we’ll use the means available to stay connected, worship together, and continue the work of our church.

Our updates and information to keep you current:

-The previous Sunday 10AM services shared via the Zoom platform are available for your viewing at Zion’s website for those with access to the internet. Find these at www.zionlutheranNy.org under the newsletter/virtual worship tab.

-We are now able to offer Zion’s 10:00 AM Sunday service each week via Zoom! For those connecting via your computer, iPad, or smart phone with video, **the recurring meeting ID# each week will be 843-5484-0714, with the password 022654.** For those calling in, the phone # is 1-646-558-8656 with the same meeting ID# and password. Thanks to our supply pastors, Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth and Rev. Janet Hoover, and all those mentioned above for making this remote worship service possible. Rev. Hoover will serve as our supply pastor this Sunday, April 26.

-For those without internet access, you can continue participating in Zion’s virtual Sunday 10:00 AM worship service by utilizing the Service of the Word template provided a few weeks back, with the readings and sermon for this Sunday provided in the pages to follow (or with instructions in your email).

-Please note, a draft of the sermon for the upcoming Sunday service will be included in both the hard copy mailing as well as the email message sent later in the week. For those participating in the Zoom service on Sunday morning, the text of the written sermon included in your email may not be exactly the same as the sermon delivered by our supply pastor. Sermons generally take several days to finalize. While the essence of the message delivered on Sunday morning will be the same, the written and spoken sermons will most likely not be word for word.

-Consider contributing to meet the increasing needs of the hungry in our local community by donating to the Utica Food Bank (<https://www.uticanyfoodpantry.org/>). Click on the **Together We Will Overcome!** box and then the *Give Today* button. You will be able to purchase a Most Needed food box or designate individual items.

-View the Ecumenical Statement of Solidarity in the Midst of a Global Pandemic, found at the following link: <https://youtu.be/yrdYVv8OuOM>. This statement was jointly made by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the Union for Reform Judaism, and Dr. Sayyid Muhammed Syeed, the President of the Islamic Society of North America.

-For those of you with access to the internet, please check-out Zion’s Facebook page, *Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY* and YouTube page, *Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY*. If you have prayers, videos, messages, cartoons, inspirational stories, or other resources that have been helpful to get you through this pandemic and social distancing, please pass them along to Sara Silva at: SSilva@zionluth.com and we’ll look to include them in our social media pages.

Thanks to all those volunteering and offering time, energy, prayers, funds, and private and public acts of kindness, especially to those feeling more vulnerable during this time of isolation and crisis. Jesus reminds us of our call to service in John 15: 9-12, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Let's continue to extend our love and caring to one another and all those beyond our doors.

Please stay safe and healthy. We can do this together.

Peace and gratitude to our Zion family,
Mark Thompson and Kristen Burson
Council co-presidents

3 Easter – April 26, 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 to 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: *O Bread of Life from Heaven (#480) Verses 1 & 2* –Mary Senn

Vs. 1 O bread of life from heaven, O food to pilgrims given, O mana from above: feed with the blessed sweetness of your divine completeness the souls that want and need your love.

Vs. 2 O fount of grace redeeming, O river ever streaming from Jesus' wounded side: come now, your love bestowing on thirsting souls, and flowing till all are fully satisfied.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon An Eye-Opening Experience –*Rev. Janet Hoover*

Today is the third Sunday of Easter.

A time when we continue to remember all those resurrection encounters and stories.

Last week we reflected on the story of Thomas and recognizing Jesus through the wounds and brokenness.

Today's story is also about recognition. On the same Sunday when Mary found the tomb empty—

Two people left the shattered and confused followers of Jesus and set out for Emmaus.

Why Emmaus? It is a village about which we know nothing except that it is about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Maybe they had family there, Maybe they had an errand to run, Or maybe as Frederick Buechner puts it:

Jesus was dead. There were rumors about the tomb being empty, But rumors are only rumors.

And for at least these two, There was nothing left to do but get out of town— Maybe the reason they went to Emmaus is that it was seven miles away from a situation that had become unbearable.

Luke is more interested in what Emmaus is, than how you chart it on MapQuest. Emmaus is wherever you go to escape— It may be the mall or a bar, It may be a darkened room or an office, It may be watching too much television or smoking too many cigarettes or eating too much chocolate or sleeping too much.

Emmaus is wherever we go, whatever we do to try and block out the pain of the world.

So, scripture tells us, Cleopas and another disciple fled— And as they walked along they discussed the roller coaster events they had just lived through, Replaying the details, Agonizing in their guilt,

Struggling to make some sense out of a senseless situation. They are so wrapped up in their grief and despair that when Jesus joins them they don't recognize him. This is a story of two people walking along a dusty road to a town that nobody had heard much about, Being joined by a stranger who walks with them and talks with them, And then as he sits and eats with them—

As he takes the bread and breaks it, Their eyes are opened. They remember. They remember the Upper Room, They remember the blessing of loaves and fish on a mountainside,

They remember hands touching lepers and the blind with healing. They remember hands that stilled the storm, And hands that carried a cross.

Their hearts begin to dance with hope— Christ is risen, And if that is true—the implications start their hearts pounding and joy rises up and spills out in praise. As one author put it:

As much as they might have wanted to keep him there beside them, They couldn't nail him down.

And that is how it always is— We can never nail him down, Not even if the nails we use are real ones and the thing we nail him to is a cross. He comes among us like the first clear light of the sun after a thunderstorm, He calls us by name, And then he is gone. Scripture says: He vanished from their sight. But not from their lives. Their eyes and their hearts are now opened, Fear and grief are replaced with faith and trust. And they rush back to Jerusalem to spread the good news. Christ is risen.

Resurrection is for people who think they have reached the end— Who taste the ashes of despair and discouragement? Who are trapped in a maze of loneliness and failure, Devastation and death— Only to find that there is more to life and living than they ever dreamed or hoped for.

Christ's resurrection is all about new beginnings and fresh starts. In the 1929 Rose Bowl, Georgia Tech faced off with the University of California. At one point, Georgia Tech's center—Roy Riegels—recovered a fumble and ran 65 yards— The wrong way. He was only stopped when one of his own teammates tackled him. They then had to punt, The punt was blocked, And a safety was scored. Needless to say, it was a demoralized team that shuffled into the locker room at halftime. As the coach faced the team, Roy Riegels slumped in the corner— A blanket around his shoulders and his head buried in his hands. After a few moments of silence, the coach said:

The same line-up that started the first half will start the second.

The team began to file out, but Roy continued to huddle in the corner.

Did you hear me, Roy?

The coach asked. Lifting his head, Roy blurted out: *I can't go out there. I've disgraced myself.*

I've embarrassed the team. I can't go out and face all those people. Coach Price put his hand on Roy's shoulder and said:

Roy, the game is only half over.

That's what resurrection is all about. No matter how dramatic the defeat, No matter how deep the shame, No matter how awful the pain— It is only temporary. There is always another chance,

A new opportunity. Over and over God reaches out and moves forward with us. Even when bad news threatens to beat us down, We can hold on to hope. We may want to pull the covers over our head and hide, But it is only halftime. We can sound the trumpets and shout Alleluia, For death and failure are not the last words. The edges of life may be tinged with tragedy, But the depths of God are joy and beauty and life.

The story of the road to Emmaus is our story. Did you notice that only one of the disciples is named? Cleopas' companion might be his friend—or maybe his wife. We know nothing about these two people other than the fact that they loved Jesus and are struggling to hold on to their faith. They could be rich or poor, Male or female. You or me. For we know all too well what it is like to walk the road to Emmaus— Barbara Brown Taylor writes:

Emmaus is the road you walk when your team has lost, Your candidate has been defeated,

You have lost your job or your friends or your self-respect. It is the road you walk when your child suffers, Or a loved one has died— The road to Emmaus is the long road back to the empty house, To piles of unopened mail, To life as usual— If life can ever be usual again. It is a road of deep disappointments, Broken-down dreams, And walking it is the living definition of sad.

But it is on the road to Emmaus that the good news of Jesus Christ meets us and grabs hold of our hearts. Jesus comes to the disappointed, The doubtful, The despairing. He comes to those who don't recognize him even when they are walking right beside him. He comes to those who have given up and are headed back home. Jesus comes to us on the way. On the way through suffering and struggle, On the way to joy and celebration.

These are tough times. We feel out of control, uncertain in a world that is not the world we knew just a few months ago. Don't let your fears, Your regrets, Your doubts, Your tears, Blind you to the presence of our Lord. This is the good news. Christ's resurrection means that just as the past is redeemed, the future is certain. For nothing past, present or future is stronger than the loving embrace of God. Christ calls you by name to come from the damp darkness of despair and struggle into the light of life.

A few moments ago, we gave thanks for our baptisms. Baptism is an act of deep significance, but it doesn't mean that our life will be trouble free. We will at times find ourselves on the road to Emmaus— We will know disappointment and heartache. But...we will not be there alone.

And when we need him the most, Jesus will reach out arms of love and grace, Working with us and in us and through us to sustain us with courage and joy. That's what baptism is all about—

It is turning our past, present, and future over to God, It is trusting that there is nothing that can pull us from God's side, It is about living water that will work its way into our life—

Refreshing, Nurturing, Replenishing.

There is a virus out there that scares us, But even now the very air around us is alive with the goodness and power of the resurrection. We are a part of a great living and growing tapestry of grace. This unusual worship is a sign of that resurrection connection as we see the faces and names of our brothers and sisters in Christ, Connected with prayer and the invisible cords of grace and love.

We are an Easter people. Easter. Easter is the promise that we need fear nothing. That even when the worst thing that can happen does happen, It is not the end of the story. Easter is a defiant song of praise in the face of death. Easter is about eternal life, A life that is not just ours after we leave this world, But an abundant life that surrounds us here and now. Easter is living in the reality of a broken world with laughter and hope. Easter is standing tall, even when the headlines shout out a rhythm of fear and dread.

Easter is rejoicing, even in the heart of disappointment. Easter is opening our eyes and our hearts and our minds to see the living, breathing, grinning, Jesus. Arms opened wide, shouting:

This is the day the Lord has made.

The world is full of death~ That can't be denied. Weeping is all around us. But we know the rest of the story. We know that in the gloom, In the shadows, People are singing songs of praise and joy.

Singing with no earthly justification, But from a well of gladness that is ours through a God who calls us to defiant delight. During these days we are being told..over and over and over...to wash our hands. Instead of singing Happy Birthday to time it, use the time to remember that you are a child of God. That you belong to God and nothing can take you from God's presence.

As the water washes over you, sing..with confidence and assurance. Jesus loves me, This I know.

For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so. And as you do remember that as God's beloved child you are lodged in the heart of God so that no matter how hard the journey, you will find your way home. Joy is yours. Give thanks to God for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia. Amen.

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, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anthem: *Open My Eyes* -Scott/Taylor/Senn

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 those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit. 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, Bill Toepp, Donna E., Michael Gilleece and family, Donna B., Debbie, Diane, Caryn, Helene, Steve & Jess, Your Neighbors clients, Dave, Jordan, Alison, Theresa, Barbara C., residents of the Presbyterian Home, 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: *Let All Things Now Living (#881) Verses 1 & 2 -Mary Senn*

Vs. 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

Vs. 2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

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!**

May BIRTHDAYS

Your Zion family is wishing you a very Happy Birthday!!

2 Michael Stevens, Jr.	16 Harry Morrison
3 Kristin Free	17 Pr. David
4 Alfred Moretz	17 Shirley Eadline
4 Evan Marscher	18 Eleanor Hecklau
5 Tricia Meneses	18 Kate Lambe
5 Millie Angevine	19 Ryan Kulawy
6 Hayley Killian	19 Audrey Scholl
6 Emilia Stevens	20 Bob Lambe
8 Lloyd McLennan	22 Tracy Stevens
9 Kaleena Musumeci	23 Abigail Tompkins
9 Dawn Straite	24 Brandon Straite
10 Erik Smith	28 Andrew Miller
11 Jed Jecen	28 Loretta Berie
12 Olivia Pierce	30 Moira Dowd
13 Bill Pentland	31 Alison Manderson
15 Ed Hecklau	31 Karen Toepp
	31 Joni Pulliam

Being at virtual church with our Zion friends touches my heart in ways I didn't know it would. -Karen Toepp

Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Roof Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Mike & Wendy Stevens
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Fran & Connie LaGase
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Memorial Fund	Fran & Claudia King
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Loretta Berie
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Ron & Jan Kowalczyk
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Ferhun & Kerstin Soykan
Oscar "Ozzie" Meneses	Food Pantry	Laurel McCurdy
Klara Kohlbrenner	Memorial Fund	Mike & Wendy Stevens
Klara Kohlbrenner	Roof Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Klara Kohlbrenner	General Fund	Ron & Jan Kowalczyk
Klara Kohlbrenner	Memorial Fund	Laurel McCurdy
Klara Kohlbrenner	Memorial Fund	Fran & Claudia King
Klara Kohlbrenner	Building Fund	Carl & Judy Schmitt
Klara Kohlbrenner	Roof Fund	Millie Angevine
Klara Kohlbrenner	Roof Fund	Fran & Connie LaGase
Klara Kohlbrenner	Memorial Fund	Jeanette & Hans Baumgartner
Klara Kohlbrenner	Memorial Fund	Mr. & Mrs. Allan Foote
Klara Kohlbrenner	Lent	Linda Bennett
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Laurel McCurdy	Missionaries	Fran & Claudia King

Enjoy this first recipe exchange provided to us by chef, Jon Daly!

We encourage you to send in recipes, too!

CROCK POT GUINNESS BEEF STEW

GOES NICE IN A BREAD BOWL

Prep Time 15 Minutes

Cook Time 5 Hours

Cuisine: Irish

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2.5 lbs beef stew meat, chopped into bite-sized chunks
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour mixed with a pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 large onions
- 1 can Guinness Beer
- 2 cups low sodium beef stock
- 2 tbsp flour
- ¼ cup tomato puree
- 2 tbsp crushed black pepper
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 3 large carrots, peeled and chopped into chunks
- ½ cup chopped celery

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oil in a large pan.
2. Dip the beef in the flour and fry until golden brown.
3. Add into the Crock Pot.
4. Whisk beef stock with 2 Tbsp of flour (this will thicken the stew).
5. Next add in the Guinness, beef stock mixture, tomato puree, and vegetables.
6. Cook on high for 4-5 hours.

