

Zionews

March 2021

The
Season
of
Lent



A Special Message from Pastor Eric and Martha Thompson, Council President

Erie County's time at Level 3 of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System has continued much longer than anticipated or desired. At the February council meeting, Zion's council decided to begin a cautious return to in person worship. Recognizing that people have different risk tolerances, we are striving to offer as many contemporaneous in person and virtual ways to attend worship as possible.

The first of these you may have already experienced. We are offering virtual communion at 8:45 and 11:15 on Sunday mornings. These are timed to coincide with the YouTube and Facebook videos and the radio show so that people watching the videos live can join the virtual communion during the postlude of the online service. Because the A/V system at Zion works with all platforms for virtual communion, the 11:15 time is also broadcast live over WLEC.

On March 7th, we will have a half-hour, in person worship starting at 8:30. The extra 15 minutes will allow for more of a service so that those who do not have internet access have the chance for an experience

closer to our normal worship. This service will follow all the standard protocols of distancing, mask wearing, limiting the number of worshippers, and all the other protocols that were in place for the Service of the Table. In addition, there will be some new plexiglass barriers to help separate Deacon Carolyn and Pastor Eric so we might remove our masks when we are talking. Please do not enter Zion until 8:20, and please use only the portico entry. In the portico, your temperature will be checked with a no touch, instant read thermometer. As this service ends with communion, the 8:45 virtual communion will be the second half of this service. At the end of the service, those in person will be dismissed by an usher and should exit through the portico.

Also on March 7th, we will have another drive-through distribution at the end of the radio broadcast. The only change to this will be the formation of one line of vehicles instead of two so that those directing traffic and distributing the elements can take turns being out in the cold. As we have done previously, the Great Thanksgiving will be live broadcast over WLEC. This will also be the

11:15 virtual communion. If the Erie County Sheriff's Department has put out a winter road condition advisory at Level 2 or Level 3, we will not have the drive-through distribution. This will be clarified during the live portion of the radio broadcast should the need arise.

If we are at Level 1 or Level 2, we will follow this schedule for every Sunday in March. If we are at Level 3 or Level 4, we will follow this schedule for March 7th and March 21st with virtual communion or the WLEC broadcast on March 14th and 28th.

Please know that if we are at the higher levels, Pastor Eric and Deacon Carolyn may not be in person at either the 8:30 service or the 11:30 drive-through distribution. Also, should either of them be experiencing any COVID symptoms, they are expected to stay home and be tested as soon as possible. They will still be able to lead services in the building through the setup for virtual communion, which will also be broadcast on the radio. Those in person at the 8:30 service will see them on the screen and hear them through the sound system. Those listening to the radio show will hear them like

normal.

Meetings of Zion ministries may begin in the building again. Masking and distancing guidelines should be followed. We encourage meetings to be offered in a hybrid format with someone in the building providing a device for others to be able to participate remotely. Pastor Eric, Deacon Carolyn, and Lori can help you schedule the remote part of hybrid meetings. All meetings must be scheduled through Lori so she can get them on the congregation's calendar and coordinate with our custodian on which rooms are ready for use and which need to be cleaned. Entirely remote meetings are still possible. Please contact your ministry team or ministry leader for more information.

Please know that the council, along with the Worship & Music and Property & Facilities Ministry Teams, continually reassess our plans. We are hard at work figuring out how we can expand our worship opportunities for Easter weekend and going forward. This does include conversation about when to restart something in person on Saturday evenings.

If you are feeling disconnected or lonely, please call Pastor Eric, Deacon Carolyn, or another Zion member. If you need a number, call the office and we can get it for you.

As you become eligible for the vaccines, please get in line for an appointment. If you are having problems signing up or do not have internet access, please contact the office and we will help you.

Your sister and brother in Christ,

*Martha Thompson &
Pastor Eric*

Sunday Service Chart

	8:30 In Person Service	Drive Through Distribution	8:45 & 11:15 Virtual Communion	WLEC & Social Media Service
Level 1	Every Sunday	Every Sunday	Every Sunday	Every Sunday
Level 2	Every Sunday	Every Sunday	Every Sunday	Every Sunday
Level 3	1st & 3rd Sundays	1st & 3rd Sundays	Every Sunday	Every Sunday
Level 4	None	None	Every Sunday	Every Sunday



Nickels and Noses for January



As a reminder, these numbers are two months behind to account for the bookkeeping schedule.

January Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date
Actual	\$29,523.30	\$29,523.30
Budget	\$35,417.00	\$35,417.00

January Attendance 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays

	Total	Average
Saturday Reflection	288	57.6
Sunday Worship	1122	224.4
Total	1410	282

Carolyn's Corner . . .

I recently attended the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (virtually, of course!), with the theme, "Anything but Ordinary Time." The Reverend Bruce Reyes Chow, who is a pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, CA introduced the conference with a presentation entitled, "A Generous and Expanded Table: Reimagining the Beloved Community." He stated:

Stop being surprised by how well you and the churches you serve have done during the pandemic.

Why are we surprised? We are doing the best we can with what we have in the most unusual circumstances. Of course, he was referring to the Church and how we are living together into this "new normal." I think we can apply this same thought to our personal lives and daily activities.

We are doing the best we can. And, along the way we are learning things about ourselves. Our children are being educated; maybe not as we wish, but they are being taken care of. Many of us are working from home; not what we're used to, but it's working. Some of us have lost our jobs; we need to ask others to help us during the hard times. This isn't easy, but we need to ask for assistance so that others can do their job of reaching out to us. We haven't seen our one granddaughter for a year, but we know she's doing okay and is safe where she is.

I keep hearing about "the lost year" and this makes me sad. It has certainly been a different year. I know those traditions like prom and significant life steps have been taken away from some and that is a regret. But we have so much to be thankful for. And if we can just focus on that; what has God done for you in the past year? In these times when we can't be together, what are we doing to serve others? We can still call those we think about. And we can pray.

Rev. Chow went on to challenge us to think forward, basing his comments on Exodus 36:1-7. Here God reminded the people that God gave them the skills necessary to do the job at hand. They saw the vision and brought so many offerings that Moses told them to stop – they had enough. For us, the job at hand is different, but it is still calling us: to love, to serve and to be faithful to the God who loves us beyond all measure.



*Blessings,
Carolyn*

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

A weekend away to
Refresh Re-energize & Reconnect
with your spouse

April 16 - 18, 2021

Comfort Suites 953 Edison Street NW, Hartville, OH 44632
Apply Now at GodLovesMarriage.org

You'll like the difference Lutheran Marriage Encounter can make!
To learn more, contact:
Dale & Ruth Mortensen d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net • 440-734-6312



First Communion Preparation

For all children and their parents who are ready to explore the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Since we are still uncertain about being together, we will plan to meet virtually on Tuesdays, March 9, 16 and 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Deacon Carolyn by March 5th at Csteinaim@zionsandusky.org or 419-901-0000 so we can have supplies for all.

New QR Codes For Zion



YouTube –

The Hill of Zion

Facebook –

ZionELC Sandusky



We need your help in updating our records. Our records show old addresses, old phone numbers, no email, children at home that are now grown with their own families... Please take a few minutes and update your information. You can do this in one of the following ways:

When you receive your end of year statement, you will find a membership information form enclosed. Please take a few minutes and complete the form and return it to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

You can also go to the "About Us" section of our website at ZionSandusky.org. Click on the link to the Google Form that says Click here to update your Membership Information.

Two Volunteer Opportunities

A/V Booth

As we do more in person, we will need more people to help out in the A/V booth. With the addition of streaming our worships, there's a little more to this position than there has been. If you are up for learning what is involved and how it can help draw you into worship in a different way, please contact Pastor Eric.

The Hill of Zion Sandusky Video Production

Between now and when we can start live streaming the services, Pastor Eric would like some help in creating the weekend recordings. Be it producing, editing, and uploading, if you have the capacity, know how, or interest, please contact Pastor Eric.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Andrew Castello, Savannah Castello, Faye Gast, Tom Kinsel, Darlene Lowery, Carla Mitchell, Sheree' Miller, Roslyn Orticari, Nancy Stewart, Martha Thompson, Jarrod Todi, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser.

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened with a devotional and prayer.

AGENDA:

Amended agenda accepted and reflected in Old and New Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Patty Pascoe and an email from Beth Busdicker were read concerning re-opening of the church.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the January 13, 2021 Council meeting were approved as presented.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

Martha Thompson was nominated and approved for the office of President of Council. Carla Mitchell was nominated and approved for the office of Vice President of Council. Tom Kinsel was nominated and approved for the office of Secretary/Treasurer of Council.

MINISTRY TEAM LIASONS FOR 2021

Worship and Music – Sheree' Miller. Youth and Young Adult – Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello. Stewardship and Administration – Roslyn Orticari. Property and Facilities – Kevin Yontz and Faye Gast. Parish Life

- Darlene Lowery. Mission and Outreach - Nancy Stewart. Faith Formation - Jarrod Todi.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric - Written report submitted. Verbal report given regarding our Zoom subscription which will be up for renewal in March. The cost of renewal with the current three account managers would be \$500. Pastor Eric presented for discussion, the use of Google Meets as an alternative to Zoom. It is free and has many of the same aspects as Zoom. Tom Kinsel suggested holding a few test meetings to see how well it works for our needs and we will make a decision at the March Council meeting.

Deacon Carolyn - Written report submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President - No written report submitted. Yearly staff evaluations have begun.

Vice President - No report submitted.

Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Kinsel - Financial reports were submitted and discussed. Phone Reimbursement for the Pastor, Deacon, and Office Administrator was investigated and discussed. The yearly audit was discussed. After consulting with Don Hanck and his firm, Barnes Wendling, it was decided that it would be best to forgo the annual audit for this year as someone from their firm was involved with our finances for at least half of 2020 and they are confident that things are as they should be. It would also be a tremendous cost. Review of accounting tasks to be performed weekly. Presentation and discussion on bill pay; setting up as Electronic Fund Transfer/Credit Card payment/check. The Treasurer's report will be filed as presented.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music - Carol Albert finished out her term with Council in January. The next Worship/Music Planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th. Carol will schedule the next quarter of worship leaders and will work with the new liaison to ensure a smooth transition.

Faith Formation - Jarrod Todi - Verbal report. The last team meeting discussion included Care and Share and having Confirmands helping carry boxes, planning of Children of Zion lessons, VBS preliminary planning, and involving the children in some form of Easter presentation.

Stewardship & Administration - Andrew Castello - No written report submitted. Bill pay and audit were discussed in last meeting and presented under Treasurer's verbal report.

Youth & Young Adult - Kevin Yontz and Savannah Castello - Nothing to report.

Property & Facilities - Carla Mitchell - Written report submitted. Verbal report given regarding specialty storm window that fell out during heavy winds. Upon investigation, there are a few other storm windows that

would need replaced. It would be best to wait until Spring, when a lift could be rented, and replace all necessary windows at once. We have had some continuing issues with the boiler/heating issues. The new railings are still a couple of weeks out in production. At that time, the downspout that is on the ground will be reinstalled. Kevin Yontz built a sturdy handrail going up to the attic. Discussion of additional safety guardrails around the attic lighting area above the Gathering Room. The organ is currently scheduled to be finished by Easter.

Parish Life – Darlene Lowery – Darlene has been in contact with the City of Sandusky regarding the purchase of a bench/plaque with Bicentennial funds raised. If we were to purchase a bench that is already installed on Jackson Street Pier, it would cost us \$2,100, which includes the personalized plaque. If we were to decide to put a bench in a park, the cost would be \$2,100 plus the cost of the labor to install it. Darlene will speak with Pastor Lenore Kure and the pastor of the Unitarian Church, and Pastor Eric will speak with Sts. Peter and Paul.

Mission & Outreach – Nancy Stewart – No written report submitted. The cookie dough that had been purchased for the Sunday Coffee Hour was baked up and cookie plates were delivered to the Sandusky Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Fireland's ER and ICU.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Staff Phones Reimbursement:** A motion was made to reimburse the Pastor, Deacon, and Office Administrator for the church use of their personal phones. Motion carried. Addendum: Costs of the entire 2021 year are to be covered.
- **Needs Assessment:** Gathering information from others at this time. Tom Kinsel to investigate the approximate cost to hire an office secretary (20 hours a week, no benefits), the cost to increase Darlene Bibler's custodian hours from 35 to 40 hours (if necessary, once the building is open), and the cost of a part-time second Deacon (no benefits).
- **Procedures for Staff Following Possible COVID Exposure:** President, Martha Thompson submitted the guidelines provided for NOMS employees for a starting point of discussion and planning. We can also look to the Erie County Health Dept. for guidelines. Roslyn Orticari to work with Martha in drafting a plan.
- **Audit:** Motion was made to accept the recommendation of our CPA and postpone this year's audit until next year. Motion carried.
- **Insurance for Sign:** Lori Wobser forwarded a cost breakdown to Firelands Insurance. We are still waiting to receive the coverage rider and what the additional yearly cost will be.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Boiler and Broken Storm Window:** Discussed under Property and Facility report.

- **Erie County-Opoly:** United Way of Erie County is holding a fundraiser, looking for organizations to buy spaces on the game board. Various price ranges. Could be presented to the Foundation. There is a fund-raising crisis in Erie County at this time. United Way helps to fund OHgo, Families in need (Kinship), Boys and Girls Club, Cinderella's Closet, etc. The cost of purchasing a board game once finished is \$40. Most of the money donated goes to the United Way (minus the \$40 for the cost of printing/creating the game). A motion was made to ask Zion Foundation to support United Way through the Erie County-opoly Fund Raiser. Motion carried. Tom Kinsel abstained from the vote.
- **Virtual Communion:** Starting on Ash Wednesday, a virtual communion will take place via Zoom. The audio would then be used for the following Sunday. At 8:45/11:15 we would partake in a live virtual communion. This would become the communion portion for the radio broadcast the following week. This virtual communion would then lead into virtual fellowship. This would take place on weeks that we are not doing Service of the Table and Drive Through Communion Distribution. We can continue to do this at levels 3 and 4 of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. A motion was made to hold virtual communion for Ash Wednesday and continue while at Level 3 and 4 of Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Motion carried.
- **Transfer of Membership:** Gloria Sarrica returned to Sandusky a few months ago and has requested a transfer back to Zion. We have received the letter of transfer from Lord of Life Church in Arizona. A motion was made to receive Gloria Sarrica as a full voting member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Motion carried.
- **Revisit Re-Opening:** Presentation on reopening ideas based on conversations with other pastors, churches, health officials; a compilation of many thoughts based on protocols in place that have worked in other churches. Discussion of all the safety guidelines we will have in place for re-open. Discussion included a review of what we are doing currently at the various levels. We want to open while protecting our staff. Kevin Yontz to look at plexiglass protection for the altar area. A motion was made to allow small groups to meet in person following safety guidelines, return to Drive Through Communion distribution twice a month, and participate in communion in person at Service at the Table. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary



Easter Garden 2021

Zion Lutheran Church offers you the opportunity to participate in decorating the church for Easter. If you would like to order one or more plants **in memory of** or **in honor of** a loved one, you may do so by filling out the information below and returning it to the church office by **Wednesday, March 17, 2021**



_____ lily(ies) in memory/honor of: Cost: \$12 each

_____ hydrangea(s) (pink or blue only) in memory/honor of: Cost: \$25 each

_____ hyacinth(s) in memory/honor of: Cost: \$11 each

_____ mum(s) in memory/honor of: Cost: \$14 each

\$_____ **enclosed**

In memory or honor of: (please circle one) _____

Given by: _____

Phone: _____

Easter Memorials

Easter Memorials: Easter Memorials may be given in honor or memory of a loved one and will be printed in the Easter weekend bulletins. **Deadline is Wednesday, March 24, 2021.**

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate which fund(s) your Memorial is designated:

General Fund \$ _____ Capital Campaign \$ _____

Radio Broadcast Fund \$ _____ Facilities Fund \$ _____

Other Fund _____ \$ _____

Include this completed form with payment (checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church)

**ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

503 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, OH 44870

Phone: 419-625-2112
Fax: 419-625-7849
E-mail: zionelc@zionsandusky.org

**From generation to
generation, we live as
friends following Jesus.**

Non Profit
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Sandusky, Ohio
PERMIT NO. 84

We're on the Web!
www.zionsandusky.org



 Find us on
Facebook



March 2021

Rev. Dr. Eric. L. Bodenstab, Pastor
Carolyn Steinfeldt, ELCA Deacon

Follow us at *ZionELCSandusky*

Our 10:30 a.m. service is broadcast each Sunday on WLEC 1450 AM & 93.5FM

MARCH 2021

Please check with your Ministry Team Leader regarding whether your meeting will be via Virtual, In-Person, or Hybrid.

***Sundays: There will be an 8:30 In-Person Service and Drive Through Distribution every Sunday beginning in March during Levels 1/2. During Level 3 it will take place only on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. During Level 4, the building will be closed. ***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30 pm Pastor—Continuing Education 7:00 pm Lenten Service—YouTube/FB	3 9:30 am Staff Meeting—Virtual 4:30 pm Executive Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation—Virtual	4 9:30 am Priscilla—Virtual	5 	6 6:00 pm Reflection
7 8:00 am YouTube Service Premiere 8:30 am In-Person Worship 8:45 am Virtual Communion 9:30 am Children of Zion 10:30 am Radio Broadcast with 11:15 am Virtual Communion 11:30 am Drive Through Distribution	8 10:30 am Praying In Color—Virtual 4:00 pm Foundation Meeting—Virtual	9  6:30 pm First Communion—Virtual 7:00 pm Lenten Service—YouTube/FB	10 9:30 am Staff Meeting—Virtual 7:00 pm Council	11 	12	13 6:00 pm Reflection
14 8:00 am YouTube Service Premiere 8:30 am In-Person Worship 8:45 am Virtual Communion 9:30 am Children of Zion 10:30 am Radio Broadcast with 11:15 am Virtual Communion 11:30 am Drive Through Distribution	15 11:00 am Pastor—Continuing Education 	16 6:30 pm First Communion—Virtual 7:00 pm Lenten Service—YouTube/FB 	17 Easter Garden Deadline 9:30 am Staff Meeting—Virtual 6:30 pm Confirmation—Virtual	18 	19 	20 6:00 pm Reflection
21 8:00 am YouTube Service Premiere 8:30 am In-Person Worship 8:45 am Virtual Communion 9:30 am Children of Zion 10:30 am Radio Broadcast with 11:15 am Virtual Communion 11:30 am Drive Through Distribution	22  10:30 am Praying In Color—Virtual 5:00 pm Property and Facilities—Hybrid	23 6:30 pm First Communion—Virtual 7:00 pm Lenten Service—YouTube/FB	24 Easter Memorial Deadline 9:30 am Staff Meeting—Virtual 7:00 pm Faith Formation	25  	26	27 6:00 pm Reflection
28 8:00 am YouTube Service Premiere 8:30 am In-Person Worship 8:45 am Virtual Communion 9:30 am Children of Zion 10:30 am Radio Broadcast with 11:15 am Virtual Communion 11:30 am Drive Through Distribution	29	30	31 9:30 am Staff Meeting—Virtual			