**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**April 2020 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

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We are certainly in a time that none of us has ever seen before. Never did I expect that we would face a time when we need to be seriously practicing social distancing (a brand-new term for these days) to the point of basically not leaving our homes except for necessity. We simply cannot gather in the church building for worship or any kind of fellowship and we don’t know how long this will last. This has become a very stark reminder to me that the church is not the building, it is the people and, as people of God, we remain the church in this time. It is important to reach out to one another regularly to stay in contact and be of support of each other.

Though we will prepare a calendar for April, there is a good chance that these events and meetings will not happen in person. The leadership of Zion will do our best to keep everyone updated on changes that lie ahead through phone calls and the internet.

We may well be having an extended Lenten season, a time where we have entered into a wilderness experience and a time when God will be at work and teach us new things. Let’s use this time to be quiet and listen to what God is speaking to us.

I do not make it a practice of using other people’s words in my newsletter articles but I would like to share what my brother put in his church newsletter. Some of his ideas came from some things that he saw me post on Facebook this week.

Note, that my brother, Rev. Eric Ebb, is a retired Army Colonel so he begins with what he experienced while serving as an Army Chaplain.

“ As I review the effects of this current quarantine, I find that it is very similar to what soldiers go through when they deploy to a foreign country. One’s routine is definitely thrown off and it takes time to adjust to what we call the ‘new normal’. I gave many briefings to soldiers coming into the country and would like to share some tips that may be helpful to us all during this uncertain time.

1. You’ve lost track of what day it is. This is normal. The key is to get yourself into a new

routine as quickly as possible. But don’t try to force it. Your body has to adjust to a new

lifestyle.

2. Force yourself to maintain your sleep and meal schedule. While your ‘head’ may be off kilter, your body still has to maintain its nourishment and rest cycle.

3. Find something to fill the void with. Read a book, watch a TV series that you’ve always wanted to watch. Update your budget and go through bills. Do some extra house cleaning. Being idle will make the situation seem even worse.

4. Laugh! Laughter is the best medicine. Watch a funny show. Collect funny memes on social media. Share humor with your friends.

5. Reconnect with your friends and family. They’re going through the same thing, too!

I’ve been watching how our church family is starting to reach out to each other on Facebook. This is wonderful and what should be happening. Ask your friends if they’re ok. Suggest things that we

could start doing as a church family. Stay connected!

6. Finally. I want to reemphasize what I constantly preach about. Stay focused on the church year! Let the rhythm of the Gospel lessons and the themes of the season help you stay in balance. I have always found great comfort in following the rhythm of the church year. We’re currently in the Season of Lent. This is a time for us to focus our attention on Christ’s journey to the cross and what it means for us as Christians. Holy Week will soon be here and then the

glorious celebration of our Lord’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.”

Since we will not be back in corporate worship by Easter Sunday, my hope is that we will celebrate Easter on the 1st Sunday that we do worship together again!

Pastor Becky +

**LAY PREACHER NEEDS**

Lay preachers needed on July 12, August 16, December 27. Please see Martha Yoder or Pastor Becky if you would like to fill in on one of these Sundays.

**THANK YOU**

 Our church family has shown much love, thoughtfulness, and kindness during Martin’s illness and passing. Thank you for all the cards, calls, and visits showing concern and love to both of us.

 Pastor Becky’s meaningful communion visits were special. Marty’s service was just as he had helped plan it with Pastor. Marty would have enjoyed Martha’s organ music too. Thanks to Pastor and Martha.

 Thanks also to those who planned and served the luncheon.

God’s Blessings,

Gloria Anderson and family

**SPECIALS IN APRIL**

**Anniversaries**

26-Jerry & Carol Engle

27-Jeremy & Christina Childs

**Baptisms**

08-Doug MacKenzie

08-Judy MacKenzie

10-Carol Engle

10-Jerry Southgate

10-Andi Hokanson

10-Kole Hokanson

10-Lyssa Griffin

12-Betty Hynes

14-Alice Morrow

16-Buffy Meyers

16-Lee Hetchler

23-Arlene Forman

25-Bernie Smith

25-Claude Smith

25-L.D. Smith

27-Olive McDowell

**Birthdays**

10-Penny Dahms

12-Jeremy Childs

13-Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

15-Tristen Alderink

16-Taryn Willard

20-Nathan Utterback

21-Connie Hall

21-Keaton McLaughlin

22-Andrew Brodbeck

27-Wayne Hazel

**\*Schedules will remain as printed to avoid confusion**

**SERVING IN APRIL**

**Altar Guild**

Claude & Mary Smith

Lisa Krikke

Claudia Smith-Alderink

**Cleaning Committee 4/5 to 5/2/20**

Harry & Lee Hetchler

Connie Hall

Rebecka Nelson

Tom & Lisa Krikke

**Coffee Fellowship**

Connie Hall

Michele McDowell

Cindy & Dan Utterback

**Greeters**

Caroline Brecheisen

Alice Morrow

**SUNDAYS IN APRIL**

**(All scheduled events subject to change due to Covid-19)**

**April 5- NO Worship in Church**

**April 12- NO Worship in Church**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 19- Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

Altar color - Purple

Communion Worship

Coffee Fellowship

Musician: Martha Yoder

Elder: Claudia Smith Alderink

Trustee: Jim Elenbaas

Acolyte: Lilly Pepper-Griffin

Lay Reader: Irene Ames

Offering Counters: Buffy Meyers,

Connie Hall

Safety Person:

**April 26- Kayla Cole**

Altar color – Purple

Service of the Word

Musician: Martha Yoder

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Tom Krikke

Acolytes: Emil Meyers

Lay Reader: Aidreana Childs

Offering Counters: Mike Johnson,

Irene Ames

Safety Person: